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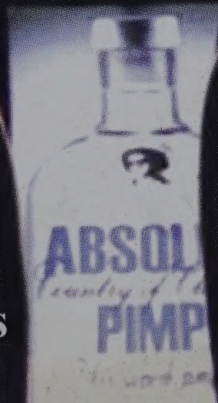
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Author
Keith Boykin
Talks to Noble



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Events, News & Pics



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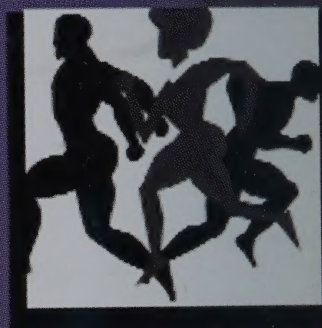
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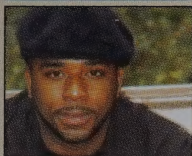
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MAGAZINE

November 13, 2003
Volume 1 - Issue 3

On the Cover...



Marketing and promotions pro Jason "Jai" Johnson. Johnson recently formed Advertising Inc. (AD INC.,) The company handles the advertising needs of their diverse client base, which includes The Riviera Nightclub, Senwot Nella Productions (The Closet) and Backyard Entertainment among others. Johnson's specialty is in the niche-marketing arena, which includes the GLBT community. For more information, you can check out the website at: www.A-D-Inc.com or you can E-mail Johnson at: jjohnson@A-D-Inc.com. **Cover and photo to the left by K. Ross**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Random Thoughts

Respecting Other Folk's Time

Customer Service Needs Revisions

by Erick D.

I have found that my greatest amount of stress comes from one particular thing that each of us **MUST** do and it won't

stop until we die. **PAYING BILLS.** Make no mistake, the problem is not coughing up the money and being responsible for what I have used, it's the entire process. What do I mean? Mostly,

that dreaded thing called customer service. There was once a time when voice mail didn't exist and many of you probably sat there while your parents sat on the phone for almost an hour to talk to the phone company rep, for example. Reps were rude and tired of hearing the same stories and these calls would often become heated arguments between the two parties.

Now, we not only have voice mail, we have to talk to robots called Virtual Representatives. What is this world coming to? I can even deal with that but what is the **MOST** frustrating is how you call and have to push a series of buttons on the phone put your account number in then wait 20 minutes to an hour for someone to pick up and then when they do pick up, they ask you the **SAME** questions that you just answered by pushing all the buttons and then they

constantly put you on hold for long periods of time (laugh).

Never ask for a supervisor if you have a dispute... isn't it strange how they are **ALWAYS** out to lunch, on the phone or with another customer when you ask for them? We are all on the losing end in this never-ending battle as a rep will put you on hold when you ask for a supervisor and explain to them how difficult **YOU** are and how **YOU** are the one with the problem. Unfortunately, you are not there to defend yourself. After all of that, all you had was a question about something on your bill that you don't understand and a whole hour has just vanished into thin air.

By the time you get through with it, you might as well have just paid the extra money.

Finally, many companies hire incompetent reps, there is one company in the Atl that is **NOTORIOUS** for that, I won't mention who it is cause I'm sure you guessed it.

Some say to me, get another assistant, but as my mother told me, by the time you get through training them to do what you need for them to do, you may as well do it yourself (laugh). Moral of the story.... **DEAL WITH IT...** I guess.

E-Mail Erick@noblemagazine.com





Because I live
for today,

but think
for tomorrow.



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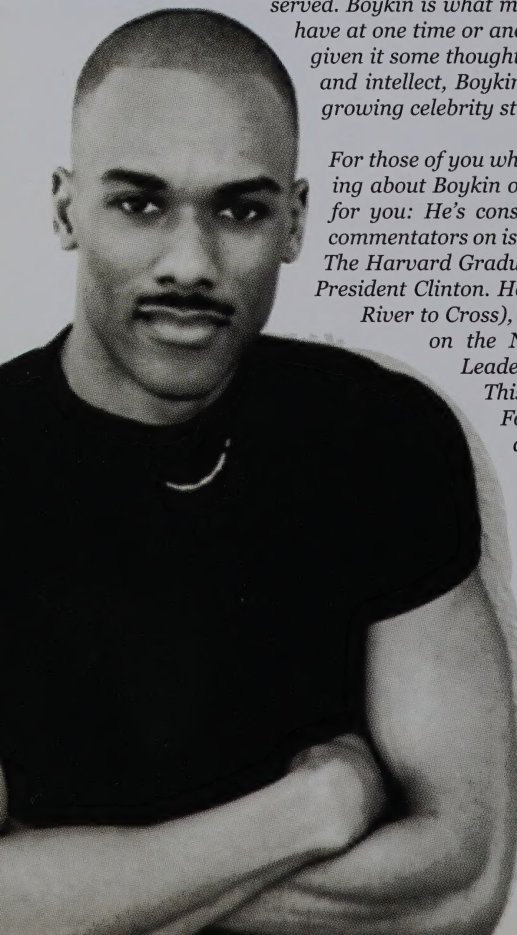
Self Love and Happiness

A Few Words with Keith Boykin

Noble is about showing you that you are WORTHY, IMPORTANT, LOVE-ABLE and an INTERGRAL part of this world and this community. This is why it is imperative that we focus on the great achievers who are capable of showing you through their efforts that you certainly can do and be anything that you want to be without having to ask for permission, approval or acceptance.

Photos by Duane Abner courtesy of keithboykin.com

If Keith Boykin didn't want a career in the entertainment or the political arena he would have been misplaced and his purpose would not have been served. Boykin is what many brothers from all walks of life have at one time or another aspired to be or at least have given it some thought. Blessed with amazing good looks and intellect, Boykin is certainly well deserving of his growing celebrity status.



For those of you who have not had the fortune of hearing about Boykin or his works here is a bit of history for you: He's considered one of American's leading commentators on issues of race and sexual orientation. The Harvard Graduate was also a special assistant to President Clinton. He is a published author (One More River to Cross), lecturer, columnist and has served on the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum as Executive Director. This brother has appeared on CNN, Fox, National Public Radio and was a frequent guest on BET Tonight with former host Tavis Smiley. His writings are included in MANY books like The Politics of Gay Rights, Dangerous Liaisons, Gay Men and the Millennium and Atonement. The list goes on and on and we were more than happy to talk interview Boykin recently and to find out what he has been up to and what's next on the never-ending agenda.

NOBLE: Tell us about how the whole writing idea came

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events

People, Places News and Events

LEGENDARY BROADCASTER



New Jack City: Radio pioneer and legend Hal Jackson beams after the successful tribute to him at Madison Square Garden. The event celebrated 20 years of Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics on WBLS FM

and 65 years in broadcasting.

STONE SOUL SISTERS

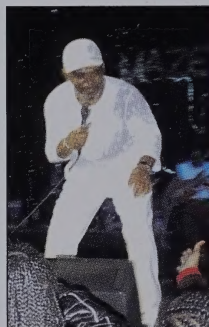


Angie Stone and Me'Lisa Morgan confer backstage at the WBLS FM - Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics 20th Anniversary Concert held at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. Angie rocked the crowd with "Wish I Didn't Miss You." Angie also has a role in the hit movie "The Fighting Temptations." Me'Lisa (of Do Me Baby fame) kept things rocking during her tribute to Hal Jackson. Photo Credit: Margot Jordan

Send all pics of events to pictures
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Before I Let Go:

Frankie Beverly reaches out to an enthusiastic fan



during Maze' song "Joy And Pain" at Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics 20th Anniversary Concert. Maze was the final group on the star-studded show at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. It all came to a close around 1:00 AM. Margot Jordan Photo

ded show at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. It all came to a close around 1:00 AM. Margot Jordan Photo

LA WEEKLY GIVES PAN AFRICAN FILM FEST RAVE REVIEWS



In the 2003 "Best of Edition" of the LA Weekly, PAFF was the subject of an article written by Mr. Scott Foundas, former senior critic for Variety. He stated "... best of all is

the Pan African Film Festival, which will return for a 12th year at the Baldwin Hills' Magic Johnson Theater next February 5 through 16. Under the leadership of founder and executive director Ayuko Babu, the PAFF is less a simple celebration of cinema than a cultural arts fair, during which the adjacent Crenshaw Plaza mall is overtaken by local artists and craftsmen who showcase and sell their work."

Continued from page 6

into play. Were you one of those kids who knew his destiny early on?

Keith Boykin: *I've been writing all my life. When I was in high school I was the feature editor of the campus newspaper, the Paw Print (laughs) and when I was in college I was the editor-in-chief of the daily college paper there. I kept a journal from the time I was in high school. When I graduated from college my first job was in politics working for the Dukakis for President campaign. I was working in the press office. So writing has been in my blood. When I was law school I was working on a paper on race and sexual orientation and the law and I thought it would be a great idea for a law review article. I never did that but instead I turned it into my first book One More River to Cross. That came out in 1999.*

NOBLE: What made you decide to make the transition from media writer to being a voice for the gay community and eventually coming out?

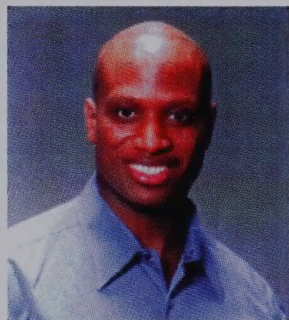
KB: *Well, I mean, I don't think there ever was a transition. I've always written about the various issues that concerned me, when I came out in 1991, that was one of the issues that concerned me. I was a part of the coalition on campus before that. So I'd always been connecting those dots and I'd already been writing about them. The articles on my web-site go back to 1981-82 when I was a guest columnist for the St. Petersburg/Clearwater times. It's always been a part of me to be true to myself.*

NOBLE: What was the audience's response when you did One More River to Cross at the Black stations and media outlets?

KB: *Well it really depended on the audience. Most of them were overwhelmingly positive and supportive. When it comes to bookstores there is no doubt that you are going to get a crowd of people who are interested in the topic and they are more likely to be receptive. The broadcast media was not quite as receptive but they were not openly hostile either. I've done TV and radio appearances like BET and lots of black radio across the country. The idea was great you know another brother had done something positive for the community. The issue, I think, was that there were those who had a hard time reconciling their Christian beliefs with the idea of homosexuality being acceptable. I got people who would call in and quote the Bible.*

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INTERNATIONAL BLACK GAY PRIDE ASSOCIATION

Noble has been informed that the International Black Gay Pride Association will hold meetings in Los Angeles this coming January. The meetings will generate ideas to blend the very successful international events and to create more opportunities for participants and board members. Noble has been invited to attend and we will keep you posted on developments.

NOBLE AT THE GAY AND LESBIAN EXPO

Noble Magazine will have representatives with a booth to greet those in and outside of our community. Stop by and say hello if you can. Here are the details: Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Community Expo o November 9, 2003 - Noon to 5:00 p.m. Sheraton Colony Square - Midtown Atlanta, 188 - 14th Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30361

JOSEPHINE BAKER RETURNS! J'AI DEUX AMOURS...A JOURNEY WITH JOSEPHINE BAKER STAR- RING KIMBERLY "Q" TO DEBUT IN LOS ANGELES



Los Angeles, CA (October 23, 2003) - JOSEPHINE BAKER RETURNS in J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker starring 3 time AUDELCO award winner,

Actress, writer and singer Kimberly "Q" (former Ms. Catch One) and directed by Stephen Semien (The Children... of The Night) will debut in Los Angeles

for a limited six-week engagement at the 4305 Village Theater in Leimert Park beginning November 5, 2003

Performances are scheduled through December 12, 2003 on Wednesday's at 8p.m. Thursday's at 10 p.m. and Friday's at 8 p.m. All seats for all shows are \$20. The theatre will hold special sneak previews on October 30th and 31st at 10 p.m. with an admission price of "2 for 1." For groups of 10 or more, advance tickets and more information, call (323) 293-1230. The 4305 Village Theater is located at 4305 Degnan Boulevard in Leimert Park Village. J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker is presented by Ron Richards Productions in association with ToDaz Woman Productions. J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker, takes you through the life and career of Madam Josephine Baker. From her start as a street performer to her astounding feat of taking Paris by storm; her stance on civil rights, to her undercover days as a spy for the French Resistance; her motivation to adopt 12 children to her eviction from her precious home Les Milandes and right back to

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Fortunately I have read the Bible and I would respond to them quoting passages that they didn't know.

NOBLE: Don't you find that arguing and going back and forth on this issue is a waste of time? I mean is that a battle that either side can ever win by arguing?

KB: Well it depends on who you are trying to win. If you are content on arguing with a person who is intent on their beliefs then yes, it could be a waste of time, but if there are people listening who have not made up their minds about it then yes, that can be useful dialogue.

NOBLE: In some of your writing there's a bit of frustration. It's as if you are trying to get a message across and you're not sure if you have the attention of the reader. Who is that person that you are trying to reach? It is the Black gay person?

KB: Give me an idea of what you mean?

NOBLE: Well, for example. Actually it's sort of universal it seems that you are trying to stress the differences between the white and Black straight and gay communities. It's as if you're trying to rally people?

KB: Well, I don't think I'm frustrated about that at all, I mean, I think that Blacks and whites are different inside and outside the gay community. If anybody disagrees with me on that, that's their right but I think they're wrong. I guess that I do feel many frustrations, at times I feel that people don't think as much as I'd like them to....

"I get upset at Black gay men who go to churches where they get verbally beaten up and abused and I cannot understand why they allow themselves to be treated like that."

NOBLE: THAT'S what I get...

KB: At times it's not always outside the community either. I guess I get upset at Black gay men who go to churches where they get verbally beaten up and abused and I cannot understand why they allow themselves to be treated like that. I think that with all the money and the contributions that have been made some sort of change should be implemented and these situations need to be challenged. I'd also like to see more GLBT brothers

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S U B S C R I B E

"I don't go out much but I'd still like to know what's going on!"

"I do go out, too damn much, but I'd rather get the magazine at home."

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and sisters coming out. I'm tired of hearing us complain about what they don't see in the larger white gay community. We don't offer the images for others to see. How will people ever know that we exist if we don't let them KNOW that we exist?

NOBLE: I had this discussion with a friend the other day, it appears that it is inherent for Black men to be very discreet and private across the board. Black gay people often have power; strength and ENORMOUS creativity but we lack resources. The frustration is understandable but I agree, complaining about the white gay community and what THEY are not doing for US is not the answer. In our research to start this publication, we were shocked to find that many other major cities besides Atlanta don't have African American GLBT publications, including Detroit, Washington and Los Angeles. I was also just informed that there is none in New York either. So in essence, how can we know who we are if we don't have the tools to like and love ourselves? I tend to think that self love begins with good resources first like parents, family, churches, media etc. Do you?

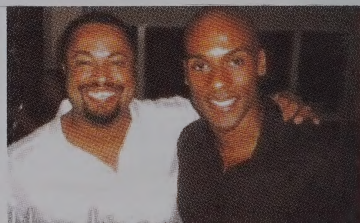
KB: Yes, it is important to have information but I do think that we have some resources already too.

NOBLE: Like?

KB: Well look at Black Gay Pride. That event is elaborate. We have the resources to support Black gay bars all over the country, we have the resources to have elaborate parties all over the country and we have the resources to buy nice homes, cars and clothes but do we have our PRIORITIES straight?

NOBLE: Well, you may have gotten me on that. I do agree. What about role models? MOST of us gay or straight are taught that the more you have (or earn) the better you will be treated and the more you will like yourself. Many of us now know that's false. Most gay people didn't have role models. I don't know about you but I don't remember anybody who was gay in my neighborhood that was admired. There was a very effemi-

nate man who everyone laughed at named Tony in my neighborhood. I remember he looked like Little Richard and I was afraid of him. I didn't understand him (like everyone else) and he was later found dead, someone had beaten him to death. He was only about 25. That's the ONLY memory that I personally have of a gay man growing up or should I say someone who was openly gay. I guess what I'm asking is, how can we love ourselves when many of us have experienced such enormous rejection from so many groups of people?



KB: Well, the great thing about Atlanta is there are many great brothers and sisters there who have the resources to create a sense of community. Unfortunately, the people who have the capitol often lack the conscienceness to create change and the people who have the conscience don't often have the resources. On top of that you have another group who are the activists.

NOBLE: So how do you marry the two or three?

Well, it may not be fair but I put more emphasis on the activist crowd. The great thing about the International Black Gay Pride organization is that they are finding ways to bring African American GLBT's together.

NOBLE: I already know your answer to this because it's the same as mines. Is the "DL" phenomenon new or old?

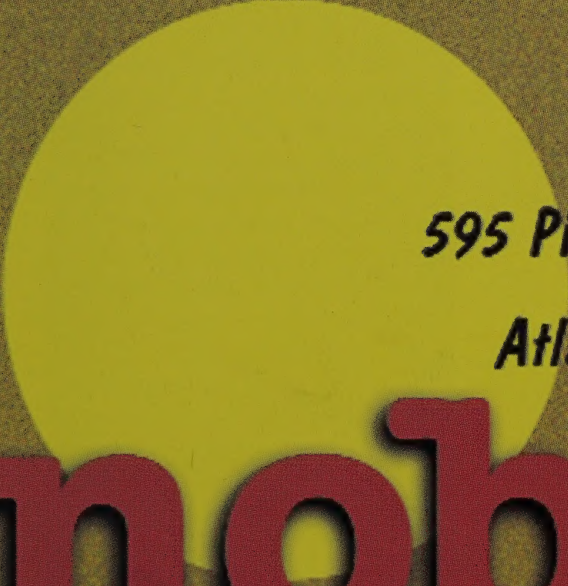
KB: Oh, it's old. As I understand it, it refers to men who have sex with men but don't identify as "gay." That's been going on since the beginning of time. It's media created hype but it's nothing new. I also don't

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Hey Noble,

My name is Vic Connor. I was compelled to write after reading a story call "Silly" by Audlye Gaines in your Oct 30 issue.

I am now a 43-yr. old blk male who has gone through what Audlye went through.

I was always experiencing deep emotional bonds w/ other brothas that lasted years, but no sex and no mention of sex was ever involved. At first I found this frustrating but soon learned to appreciate the closeness and love I felt from them without waiting for any particular breakthrough or moment of truth.

I found that most straight brothas don't necessarily want to have sex with you. Yes, they are very aware where you're coming from. Most of them knew me because I was a DJ and they like my music and hanging out with me or they just knew I was gay. I'm very masculine but I don't hide my sexuality and never have.

Guys that find themselves attached to what appears to be a straight guys waste time and thought waiting for the question to be answered, "does he mess around or not?"

Some gay brothas spend too much time trying to have "sex" with everybody that gets close to them instead of looking at people for who they really are. Straight or gay this guy obviously likes/loves your company. Sex with you is a whole different subject and should not be pursued with all relationships where there's a spark of attraction. Let that spark stay there dormant forever if necessary and you will always have a loyal friend who honestly loves you forever.

Continued from page 10

her triumphant return to stardom! Josephine Baker is beautifully reincarnated through this performance by Ms. "Q," which she is so affectionately called by her peers. "Q" was approached to write a piece on Ms. Baker, due to her devotion and admiration for the diva, and has been elated with the overwhelming responses and the endless confessions of how she captured Josephine's person and essence with such style and grace. The dynamic duo Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis profess "The performance and energy were Josephine at her best!"

Coming Soon....

The Noble Magazine Minority Marketing Concepts Seminar.

Marketing for Minorities, as you may know, is a complicated procedure.

In the coming weeks, Noble Magazine will hold a seminar to give Minority entrepreneurs, sales execs and those who want to start a business in the GLBT community, ideas and strategies to help avoid the usual pitfalls. If you have any ideas on what specific areas we should cover please email us at

seminar@noblemagazine.com

understand why there is an effort to demonize these men more than there is to create a comfortable climate for them to express their sexual orientation. Many Black men have been living with, struggling with and dying from AIDS for two decades. Nobody was really paying attention to it until now. **EVERYBODY** who lives in our community is important.

NOBLE: What are you working on now?

KB: I have a new book coming next year called *Take America Back: Fighting Right Wing Lies with Left Wing Truths*. It's a response to the nasty politics from the Bush administration to Rush Limbaugh, Gays in the Military and Gun Control among many other things. In addition, I'm working developing a television and radio show. I'm doing magazine articles and other things. The radio show is a show that is open and where I interview people from all walks of life. It's not a gay oriented show.

NOBLE: We have found that to be true of many of our readers. They want to know the **WHOLE** world and don't want to experience any more types of isolation. I feel that way too.

KB: Sure, I mean, I'm openly gay but I don't want that to be the centerpiece of my identity because it's not. When I write about things I write about everything under the sun. I write about issues that are important to me like the Iraq war etc. I think it's important as gay people and African Americans to understand that we have a voice. I was very openly gay when I worked in the White House but I was not there as a Black gay man, I was there as a person who worked in the White House. Some of the people in the Black media would have discouraged me from coming out. A lot of people don't come out, understandably, because they think that they will lose some sort of security like jobs, careers etc. To an extent, that's understandable but at some point, if we don't use the power that we do have what's the use. There are plenty of Black people in entertainment, sports and many other fields who are gay and bisexual and the people around them know it but don't say anything. In 1996 I did a book signing at OutWrite and I went to Atlanta for Labor

Day. There were hundreds of brothers and sisters there for my book signing I was overwhelmed at the response for my very first book, I will never forget that.

NOBLE: If you could chose what type of world Black GLBTs would live it what would it be like?

KB

1. We would accept ourselves and love ourselves as who we are.

2. We would come out to our friends and families and let them know who we are

3. We would confront our ministers and preachers who have been beating us up and demand that they respect our rights.

4. We would be actively involved in the political process.

5. We would support institutions that support us.

6. We would create our own social structures that would continue to support and affirm us.

7. We would create economic structures that would build our community's material wealth.

8. We would work on just loving each other and breaking down the barriers.

9. We would break down our barriers.

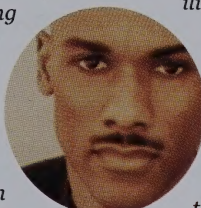
10. We would deal with the sexism in our community.

11. We would deal with our transgender phobia.

12. We would focus on our own sexual hang-ups that lead to risky behavior and diseases.

NOBLE: Wow, you just rolled that out. Thanks Keith....

KB: I've never been asked that question before and that's what came to mind. Thank you too.



Writer's BLOCK



***The Writer's Block** is a section that we allow readers to express themselves in. You can talk about love, life, pain, happiness and frustration. Readers are welcomed to write in their opinions and responses to featured writers. Send your entries to block@noblemagazine.com. Must be 1000 to 3000 words. Opinions in the Writer's Block are not necessarily those of Noble Magazine or its publishers.*

"Queer Eye for Blacks"

by Jasmyne Cannick

2003 has definitely been the "gay" year. From Bravo's "Boy Meets Boy" to "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." We've celebrated triumph with Lawrence v. Texas- Lambda Legal's historic challenge to Texas' discriminatory "homosexual conduct law" and witnessed the first openly gay bishop. Anyway you cut it, almost everyday this year we read, heard or saw LGBT images in the media. The only problem was that almost all of the LGBT images shown in the media were white. Sadly, there were very few LGBT people of color images in the media. Thus helping to further perpetuate the myth that LGBT people of color do not exist.

LGBT persons of African descent are members of two communities and over looked by both. Issues of racism and classism come into play as white men and women have always been the most visible and empowered members of the LGBT community. Our issues are then further marginalized with the implication that "homosexual issues" are "white" issues and therefore are not important to communities of African descent as a whole. LGBT persons of African descent receive little or no support from either of their communities

and are often times overlooked.

Case in point, the five year anniversary of Matthew Shepard recently passed and to date there have been hundreds of articles in the press related to his death. Shepard's murder was considered a high profile case and received media coverage in both LGBT and mainstream press and during the weeks preceding the anniversary of Shepard's murder, there was a surge in the press regarding his death and bringing attention to hate crimes against LGBT persons.

However, did you know that activist and poet Amiri Baraka's daughter, Shani Baraka and her partner Rayshon Holmes were both found murdered in Baraka's New Jersey home in August? In addition, Emonie Kiera Spaulding and Bella Evangelista Perez, both of whom were transgender men, were murdered in Washington D.C. Sakia Gunn, a fifteen-year-old Black lesbian from New Jersey was murdered on May 11. Last year, in Washington D.C. Black transgender teens, Ukea Davis and Stephanie Thomas were murdered. The press surrounding these deaths can hardly be compared to that in the wake of Shepard and Brandon's deaths. Why is the death of a Black or Latino LGBT person less likely to be covered by the press? When researching the

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media coverage of certain high profile LGBT hate crimes, I found one thing was consistent, when there is a community mobilized around the tragedy it tends to receive more media coverage.

Black gays and lesbians are a community within a community within a community. You need to mobilize around our tragedies and our issues. The Black LGBT community should have written the executive producers of "Boy Meets Boy" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" in mass regarding the exclusion of Black LGBT characters. It does not start and stop with mainstream LGBT America either. Black media outlets are just as guilty of exclusion. When was the last time you saw a Black LGBT images in BET or in your local Black newspaper?

It is time for the Black LGBT community to stand up and allow their voices to be heard. This includes writing to the executive producers of the television shows that so blatantly leave out Black LGBT characters and approaching Black media outlets and letting them know the issues within the Black LGBT community. You need to begin to demand fair, accurate and inclusive representation of your community. Until the Black LGBT community can collectively stand as a family with voices united, it will continue to see only white LGBT images and issues discussed in the media.

Jasmyne Cannick is the POC Media Manager for Communities of African Descent for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in Los Angeles, CA. Comments can be sent to Cannick@glaad.org.

Points of Interests

Our Points of Interest guide will soon have some changes. Please forward all of your event information that would interest the African American and Latino LGBT communities ASAP events@noblemagazine.com. We encourage both the African American Gay and Lesbian Community to participate.

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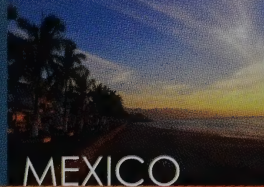
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Noble Nubians

Well, come on in!

- Erick Davis

Many of us have great memories of the older woman in our neighborhood that always had our best interests at heart. This was no doubt the woman (at times a man) who truly understood us before we understood ourselves. They'd often invite us in, perhaps to hang out with their kids, have a glass of Kool-Aid, something to eat, show them the latest dance or just some general conversation to enhance the silent connection.

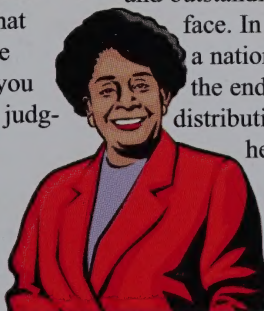
There have been some great people in our culture and lives that have indeed loved us and we MUST remember them and focus in on their generosity. Ironically, didn't it always seem that they gave you that "look" as if they knew early on what time it was but they were still willing to embrace you as a person first without judging you?

In our upbringing, we have often heard about "community" but that is a word that has often

been meaningless to many of us. We were the children with no homes and grew up to be more independent than our brothers or sisters could ever be. We knew that we had to survive.

Noble is a magazine that would like to get back to that sister or brother in the neighborhood who saw you for YOU.

Our goal is to consistently embrace the rich African American GLBT culture in the Atlanta (and surrounding) areas with the credit that we all deserve. While Noble will be primarily distributed in Atlanta our goal is to connect with over 10 Black Gay Prides in 2004 to bring Noble to each one and meet you, our creative, talented and outstanding readers face to face. In essence, we will be a national publication by the end of 2004 at many distribution points with your help.



In our research, many of you have expressed your

Continued on page 12

Writer's BLOCK

The Writer's Block is a section that we allow readers to express themselves in. You can talk about love, life, pain, happiness and frustration. Readers are welcomed to write in their opinions and responses to featured writers. Send your entries to block@noblemagazine.com. Must be 1000 to 3000 words.

Barbershop Quartette:

Damn, Can They See Through Me?

- David Lee Hamilton

It's been a long day and I am on my way home. It's not quite 8pm yet and the Barbershop closes at 8:30. Damn, perhaps I can get in to get a quick haircut before they close and the crowd has probably died down, I surmise. I then walk into the strip mall, past the convenience store and I'm headed to the shop when on my way, I notice several brothers standing in front of the shop laughing and givin' each other aggressive hand grips with hugs as they greet each other. "Nigga" comes out of each mouth as they compare rims and talk about basketball, women as they constantly adjust their balls and hold the same court that



has been held by the generations of black men before them in the exact same spot. At that moment, my auto programming goes into play and I begin to get more aggressively masculine with each step. Not to say I'm sashaying like Beyonce` down the street but my everyday walk becomes slower and more of a choreographed stomp then the proud and tall 'how the hell are you' stroll I am used to. I am jumping into character; I began to harden my approach and become what I never really was but was always expected, designed and required to be. I'm so sick of this, but what choice do I really have?

Fortunately, they are all interrupted when a fine sister's click and clack of her designer beige pumps echo through the courtyard as she knowingly strolls by with a the kind of shapely, large hips that dominate the mentality of brothers for the entire visual procedure. She is going to her car, jiggling her keys and popping her gum with enough attitude to feed a small town.

They each look in her direction and call out to her, as if perhaps she would even CONSIDER being a fool for a quick sexual encounter but the proud walk and her clear destination's focus immediately puts them on the back burner as she waves her hand at them as if they are annoying her. 'Not today, or in this life, baby' her attitude indicates as they forget about her just as quickly as they call her out. EXACTLY what she predicted in the first place?

In the transition she looks at me, and gives me that once-over that indicates 'You're different.' Then that turns to 'Oh, OK, I get it' I've been clocked by her intuition. The look is always somewhat blank and shoulder-shrugging as if she is telling me, 'Hmm, too bad, it's your thing baby, just be careful,' I want to tell her the same thing and I do without uttering a single word. Her message is crystal clear. But when I change my focus and look over to the brothers, they are each already honing in

on my presence and giving me a different look then they just gave her. The look of disapproval. I've seen each one of those looks before on these four straight brothers. One is outright disdain that is territorial and quickly indicates that I better not even look his way. Two more are 'you're not one of us and we're cool as long as you keep your distance' and then there's always the one that says 'We could be cool man, I could take you at face value but my boys ain't down wit chu!'

I've been clocked. I give my best head nod to them KNOWING they have all just dissed me but I am still seeking what they will never



give me... approval and acceptance. I ask myself the same question that I have asked myself 10 thousand times, why do I keep doing this to myself, this is what con-

Continued on page 18

events

People, Places and Events

Noble Magazine is constantly looking for events and happenings for the diverse African American and Latino GLBT community as well as the rest of the world. While all events will not be specifically African American or Latino or GLBT events, we will post events that we feel you would be interested in attending or viewing pictures from. Please submit your materials to editor@noblemagazine.com.

Gregory Hines Tribute

-By Keith L Forest



Stars shined brightly at the world famous Apollo Theater recently to celebrate one of the entertainment industries most beloved performers - Gregory Hines. The star-studded affair, hosted by former

dance partner and brother Maurice Hines, featured a spectacular line up of Broadway talent and a who's who list of entertainment luminaries. The show kicked off with a warm greeting from the Apollo Theater president Jonelle Procope and a splendid overture from Sherrie



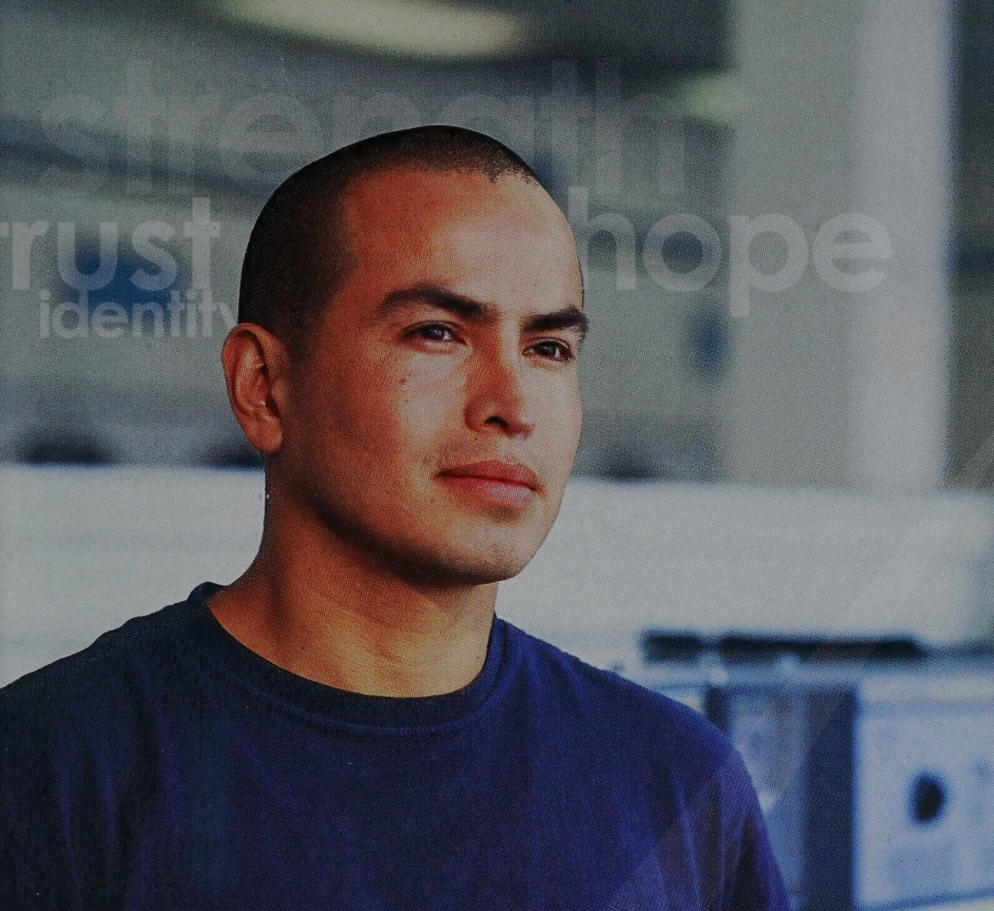
Mircale and The Diva Jazz Orchestra. The celebration continued with tap improvisation by a group of extraordinary tap dancers and an uplifting gospel performance from The Broadway Gospel Choir. Solo performance included Broadway tunes sung by Leslie Ugamms, Diahann Carroll, Andre DeShields, Freda Payne and Ann Duquesnay. Hoofers Jason Smith, who performed a sizzling number entitled "Hot Feet," and Savion Glover brought the house down with their solo tap performance honoring Gregory Hines' legendary tap style. Mercedes Ellington joined Maurice Hines for a touching rendition of "Sophisticated Lady" and Chita Rivera

strolled on stage with Ann Reinking for a top hat performance of "Nowaday". Attending celebrities includ-



ed Debbie Allen, Mikhail Barishnikov, Roscoe Lee Brown, Jasmine Guy, Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis, Nicole Kidman, Lenny Kravitz, Denzel Washington, Eartha Kitt, Geoffrey Holder, Michelle Lee, Congressman Charles Rangel, Isabella Rossellini, Tommy Tune and a host of other family members and friends.





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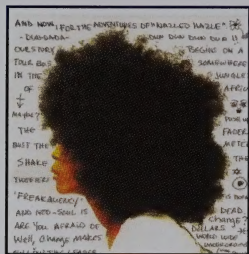
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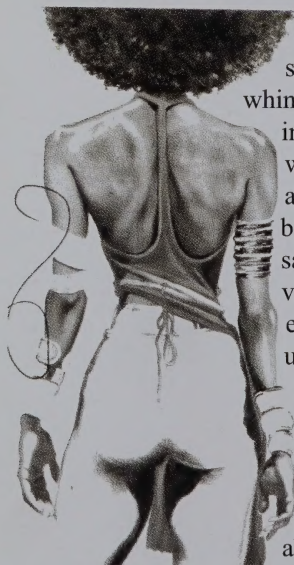
***** No Doubt!
 ***** Aiiight
 ***** I'm Cool
 *** (blank)
 **
 * Not Happenin'

eyes & ears

Erykah Badu

Worldwide Underground
 Motown

(illustration by juan austin)



There are those who say that her, at-times, whiny delivery is irritating but as musicians we know the vocal ability of Badu and believe it when we say, she does have the voice. She is certainly expressing her unmatched creativity as she has done for all previous CDs and this one is no different. The first cut "Bump it" is about a recording session gone bad and

Badu, in her unusual but usual creativity turns it into a middle eastern-ish master-

piece. You would think that you may have to wait for another three or four cuts before the next jam enters but the next cut "Back in the Day" takes you right there early. This cuts begins to set the tone for the whole CD which thus far continues to allow Badu to hold the crown of Motown head Kedar Massenburg's coined phrase "Neo Soul." Then Badu goes totally left with "I Want You" an 11 minute song that brings it on home. You don't have to listen to another single to know that Badu is serving the goods again.

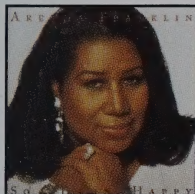
"Woo" takes her back to her hip hop/Neo roots. This one will be a big concert hit as it will demand audience participation. My favorite cut is "The Grind" which talks about creative ways to earn that almighty dollar. Then there is the current lead single "Danger" which had to grow on me when I first heard it. The lyric makes the point before the music, then I got into it. "Think Twice" is another favorite and for those of us who are old enough to remember, Badu captures the essence of 70's songstress Sylvia Robinson to a T. The stand-out cut on the CD is Badu's remake of the Sequence 79's smash "Funk You Up." Ironically, the lead rapper on the single makes an appearance Angie Stone but this time she sings. Other participants include Queen Latifah and radio hostess/rapper Bahamadia. Overall this is a great CD.

Aretha Franklin

So Damn Happy

Arista

**



Recently, I watched Aretha Franklin on a PBS special dedicated to soul singers.

Initially, while I was

too young to appreciate the music from those days, I enjoyed hearing some of the older artist come back and sing some of their old songs from day's gone by. I was amazed at the condition that some of the performers were in, everything from missing teeth to gherri curls. But they all still had the goods. When the queen of soul came out, I must admit, I was shocked at her appearance (I know, I can be shallow at times) and could not really listen to her sing but the new CD provides the opportunity to pay

closer attention. The Holding On cut written by Mary J. Blige IMMEDIATELY stood out and is by far the BEST cut on the CD. Over all the CD's production is very good and up-to-date but when I put in Aretha's cuts from the 70's I hear a different woman singing. It is certainly VERY difficult to market "seasoned" artists at this point in their careers, especially when radio has tightened up their playlists and there's so many artists competing for a space.

The one thing that Aretha will always have in



her corner is her "Queen of Soul" title given to her by radio DJ's in the 60's. This CD, however, needs a little more umph and the great production can't seem to make up for whatever's lacking in the overall product.

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Continued from page 5

concerns, dismay and frustrations with feeling that you have limited resources in this area (Atlanta) that often fails to generate the answers to YOUR needs and desires. Well, we hear you loud and clear and we understand the need for a publication like this to take YOU to the next level.

Keep in mind, our goal here is not to point fingers, spread hate or attack anyone but our goal IS to take a deep, long hard look at the issues that concern us all and simultaneously generate our love for each other and have a laugh and some thought-provoking conversation in the process.

If you have concerns, we don't mind addressing, investigating and even writing about them but you MUST offer solutions and options for making it a better situation.

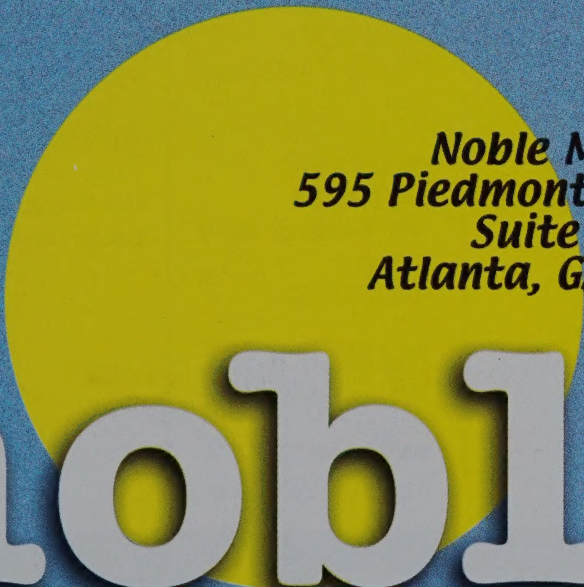
There are a few rules in Noble that we would like to make clear up-front. First: we will never say "HIV" or "AIDS" (except in the disclaimer or advertisements) in this magazine. Why? Because at this point you are so accustomed to hearing and seeing it that you can pick the capitol letters out in a myriad of text with no problem. It's also something that many of us prefer to avoid. Unfortunately, we can't. Therefore, we will refer to it as "The Bug." There are many great trials and discoveries happening week to week that you will now have a resource to forward that information to you as well as other medical information that primarily affect you the African American and Latino man and woman. As we continue to staff up and prepare for 2004 we invite you to come grow with us. If you ever have any questions or comments, feel free to email us at

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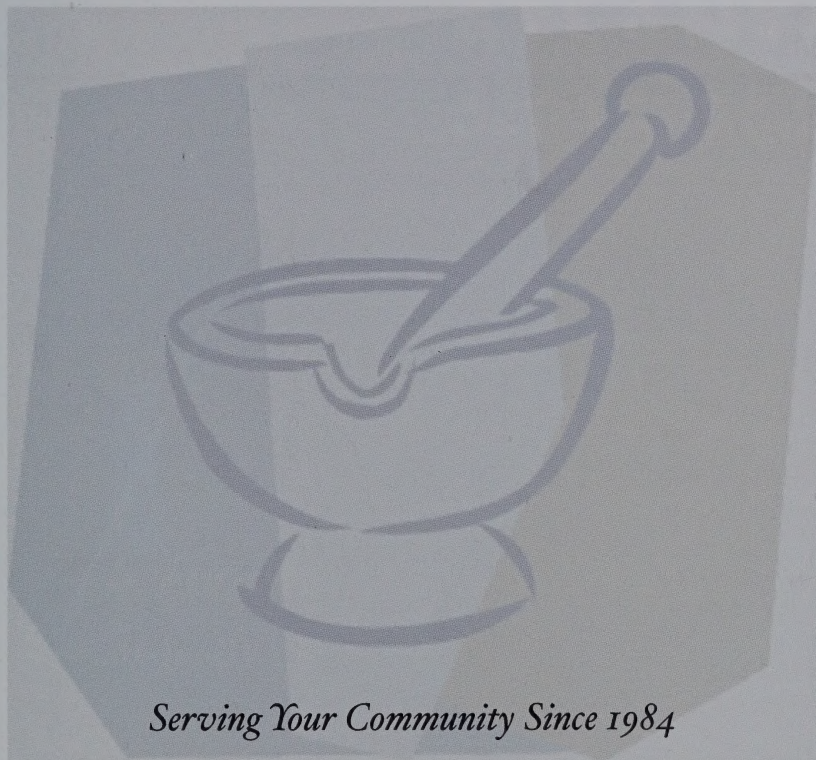
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Continued from page 7

tinues to destroy my self-esteem, this is what continues to keep me from seeing my own greatness and this is what keeps me from loving myself. It has also become the pattern of my life. Searching for what seems to consistently elude me.

I go in the store and do what I have probably done a million times

More importantly, as I get older I realize the more I do to please other people, the less I like myself

before. I act like it didn't happen. 'Na dawg, they didn't clock me, I try to tell myself' as I turn up the Hip Hop persona a notch or two and make sure I greet the first brother I see with "Sup Dawg." But who am I foolin' and why am I still wastin' my time doin' this I surmise as I make more room in the overstuffed box in my head that's already filled with so many lifetime low self-esteem packages, that I am running out of space.

Sure, I've been down the hip hop baggy jeans route, I'm a sports fan, I've been married and I've even tried to get rid of all my gay friends but none of that has ever worked for me. I have never seemed to be able to connect with other black men because they have been my greatest source of pain and joy at the same

time. So why is it that I still love them so much, I question? More important, as I get older I realize the more I do to please other people, the less I like myself. Where is the middle? Where is the place where I can be who I am, not an effeminate man and not a hard core hip hop DL thug but MYSELF?

The first thing I always think about is how, every now and then, the brother who gives the only look of approval and I have met MANY times before. In a grocery store, at a basketball game, in the shoe store or even at the barbershop and I have immediately assumed he was straight before I even got to know him. These were often the brothers that wanted to be involved with me but I rejected them thinking it could not be real, but not before I allowed my other gay friends to see them with jealousy and envy. Then I would write him off and wonder why I had so few straight male friends or so few prospects for the kind of brother I wanted for myself.

I hate the cycle that I put MYSELF through. The cynical attitude that I have developed over the years that has guaranteed failure and disappointment. I want to divorce it.

SO WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Be ME at all cost. It's a consistent process that will take some time but I can do it. I have to control my OWN thoughts and know who I AM without seeking the approval of anyone else again.



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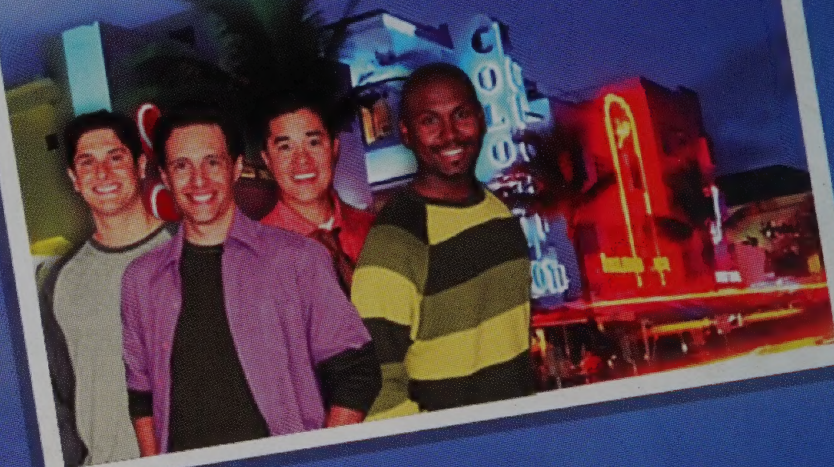
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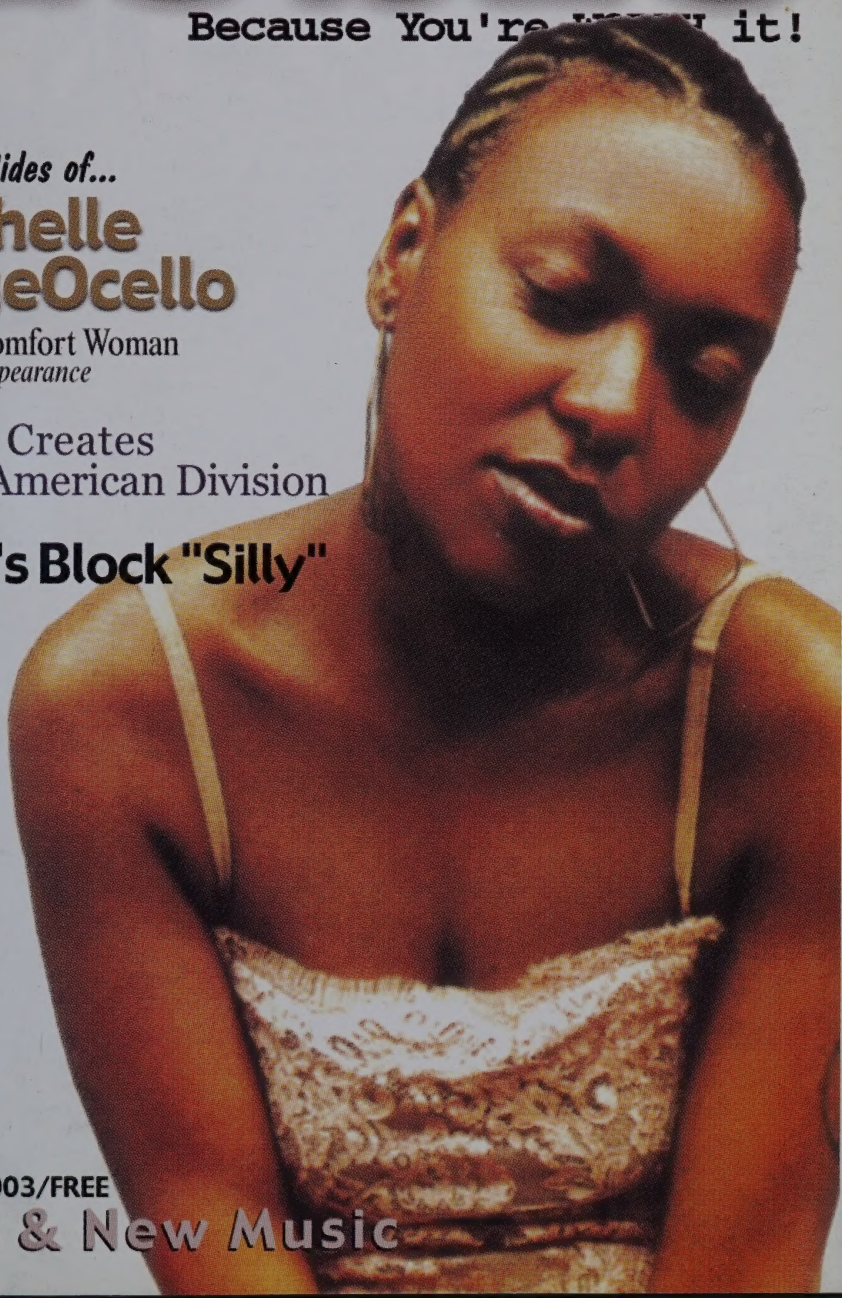
The Many Sides of...

**Me'Shelle
NdegeOcello**

*New CD - Comfort Woman
and Atlanta Appearance*

GLAAD Creates
African American Division

Writer's Block "Silly"



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News & New Music

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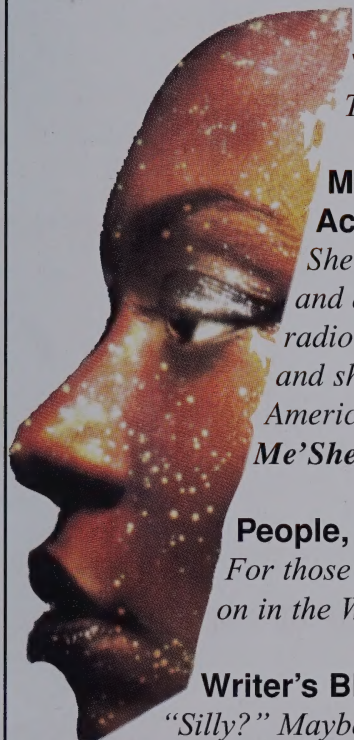
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The first issue of Noble WAS a SMASH!

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She's dealt with drug addiction, rejection and a lack of support from commercial radio but she has an unbelievable following and she's been a powerful voice for African American GLBT issues. Read more about Me'Shelle NdegeOcello.

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"Silly?" Maybe Not. Only a school boy crush

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Noble Nubian and Princess

WOW, What a RESPONSE!

We just want to thank all of you for making the inaugural issue of Noble a SUCCESS.

Initially, we were concerned about the Atlanta market because the magazines in LA were gone within two days after we put them out. However, they didn't seem to be moving very fast here for the first three days. One brother told me it was because the Black GLBT community was so accustomed to not having a publication that they were no longer checking for anything. Then the situation turned around. Somebody must have been in a club and spotted the fine brother on the cover (who also informed us that he got LOTS of responses from that cover), picked it up ran down the street shouting and knocking on doors.

Thanks to you for spreading the word and letting people know that there is now a publication for the African American GLBT population. The magazine was picked up and gone in 98% of the locations that we put it in within a week. We have received many e-mails, phone calls and congratulatory letters over the last week and we want to thank you (again) for it. Keep those letters coming. The most frequent phrase we kept hearing by far was "It's ABOUT TIME! And certain club managers telling us "We Need MORE" (laugh).

Enough of that, it's back to work, marketing and finding innovative ways of giving YOU what YOU deserve in a publication. Keep in mind, that our growth is YOUR growth, any event, business, art show, fashion show or retail outlet that African American GLBTs own or are involved in would benefit the most by advertising in Noble. Tell your business associates, clubs, events managers and friends about Noble and we'll find ways to help build their businesses outside of just doing an ad. Keep an issue handy at the house so that you will always have our contact info.

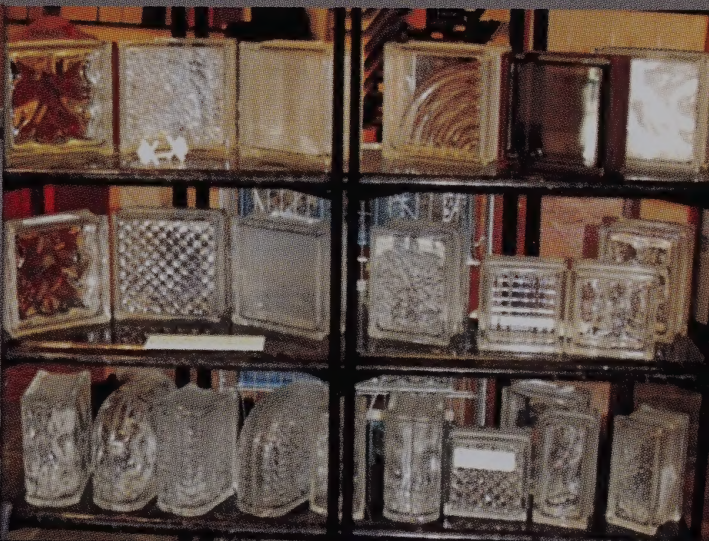
Finally, we are always looking for innovative and beautiful brothers and sisters to put on the cover. If you fit the script or know someone who does, hit us at cover@noblemagazine.com. See you in two weeks!

Editor's Note: Please allow us to clarify that Erick Davis, who writes our editorials, is a freelance entertainment industry writer from our LA offices. He currently has no affiliations with any Atlanta organizations. From this point on he will use "Erick" as a signature.....

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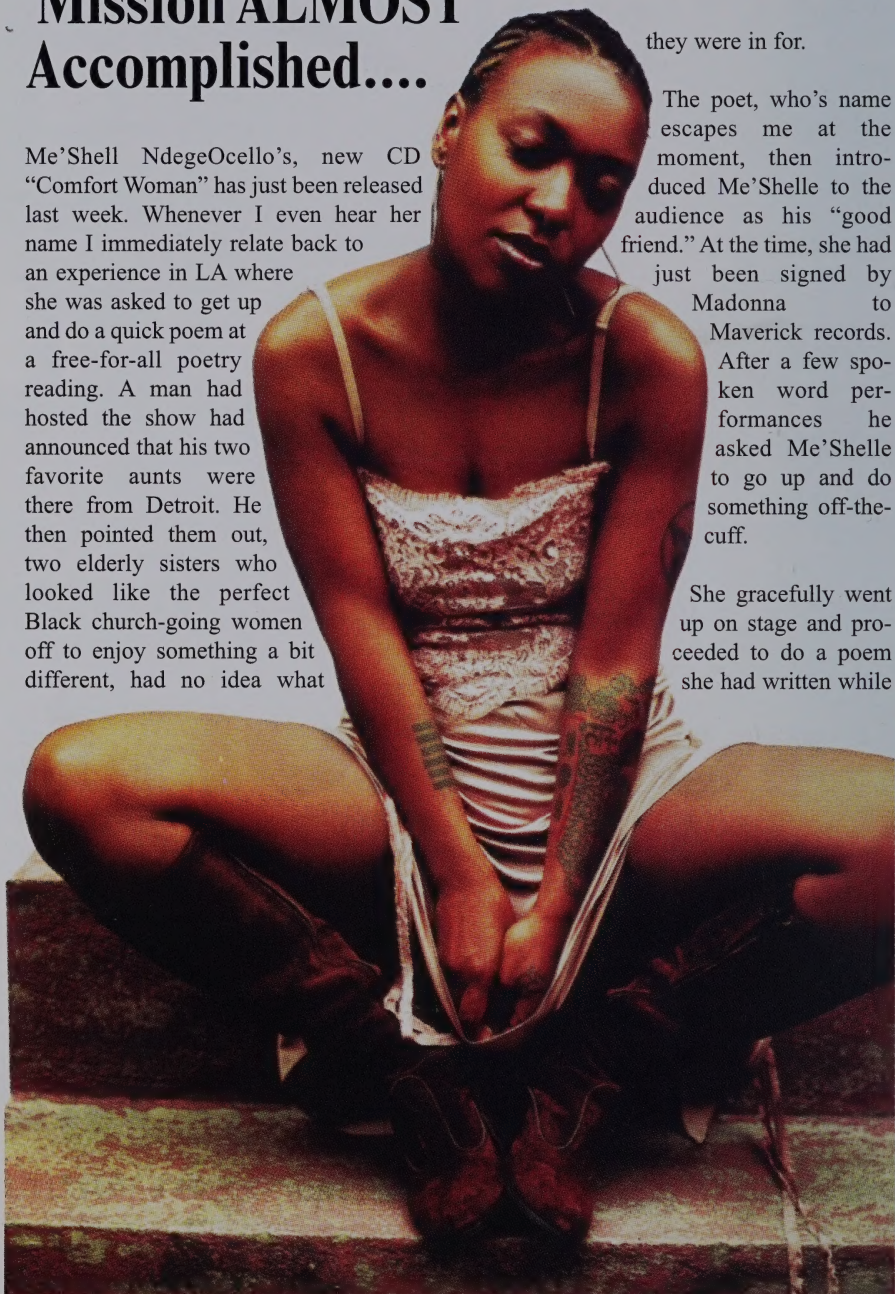
Mission ALMOST Accomplished....

Me'Shell NdegeOcello's, new CD "Comfort Woman" has just been released last week. Whenever I even hear her name I immediately relate back to an experience in LA where she was asked to get up and do a quick poem at a free-for-all poetry reading. A man had hosted the show had announced that his two favorite aunts were there from Detroit. He then pointed them out, two elderly sisters who looked like the perfect Black church-going women off to enjoy something a bit different, had no idea what

they were in for.

The poet, who's name escapes me at the moment, then introduced Me'Shelle to the audience as his "good friend." At the time, she had just been signed by Madonna to Maverick records. After a few spoken word performances he asked Me'Shelle to go up and do something off-the-cuff.

She gracefully went up on stage and proceeded to do a poem she had written while



sitting in the audience about a woman's vagina. The subject alone got nervous snickers from the audience; the remaining fu fu LA audience was stunned. The older women didn't know what to do and just sort of looked at each other through the tops of their reading glasses in a state of disbelief. Me'Shelle then went on to recite her freshly written poem which described everything that she wanted to do with this particular body part.

As someone who has always been left when everyone else was (supposedly) right, I immediately started cracking up. I know that I was the only one in the audience laughing because when I looked up, people were looking at me as if I had lost MY mind. I was



certainly not laughing at the poem, I was laughing at the boldness of this sister and the reaction from a shocked audience who was left with their mouths open and speechless.

The two older women looked like they didn't know what to do, where to turn or how to react. Now I remember the poet's name; it was D Knowledge. He looked as if he was about to defecate on himself as her poem became more and more graphic and shocking. When she started talking about "tasting," one of the older church women began to swoon. 'What was I thinking by inviting her on stage,' I'm sure D Knowledge surmised and when she was finally done. People didn't know whether to clap or leave. There was dead silence. I knew that I was a fan and an industry friend for life (laugh).

Make no mistake, it was CERTAINLY very disrespectful for her to read that poem in front of those two elderly women, but I felt more sorry for the nephew who had flown them out to hear cuts from his (only) album that never made it past the factory.

In the years to come, Me'Shelle would be no stranger to more controversy. When she came out as a bisexual mother of a son several years ago who suffered a drastic drug addiction, Black radio left the club that night. They could probably have dealt with the crack, but the "bisexual" part didn't sit well with them. At the time, it was rumored that heads at Warner Brothers were unhappy with her decision to reveal her sexuality to the public because now she would be very hard to market.

In many instances, an artist would have been dropped from the roster and never heard from again for making a move like this and many have but lucky for Me'Shelle to have the recent tongue-slapping queen of ALL controversy as the owner of the label and as a comrade to back her up. The legendary Madonna believed in Me'Shelle and she would stick with her.

Me'Shelle then released her second CD Peace Beyond Passion, which included the controversial single "Leviticus: Faggot" a triumphant and brave video followed that detailed a young brother who was severely rejected by his family and community because he was gay. The video was repeatedly played on the video channels but again, black radio began to reject Me'Shelle even more. When the second single was released "Who is HE and what is HE to you," a previous hit for Bill Withers; black radio shut the gate and threw away the key with Me'Shelle. She had now gone TOO far by not changing the sex of the person to be the "required" male piece that black radio was accustomed to. She had overstepped the boundaries and she was now relegated to the, 'we don't have room for her, sorry!' stack. Just when you thought it was all over for her, she was thrilled to announce that she was going to do a CD full of guest appearances by some of the mid to late 90's hottest acts. Her face was cracked when NONE of them showed up or responded to her request.

Continued on page 11

events

People, Places News and Events

GLAAD ANNOUNCES PEOPLE OF COLOR MEDIA MANAGER

Coverage of cities include: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington and many others. Jazmyne Cannick to focus on media advocacy, education reaching LGBT communities of African decent.



Culminating an extensive national search, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the hiring of Jazmyne Cannick as the organization's People of Color Media Manager.

In this newly created position, Cannick will work with People of Color Media Director Mónica Taher and the other members of the GLAAD team to increase and extend the organization's media advocacy, outreach and visibility among media serving people of color, focusing particularly on outreach to LGBT communities of African descent.

"As an activist and writer in the Black community, I am excited and thrilled to join GLAAD's tradition of excellence in serving the LGBT community," Cannick said. "And I'm excited that GLAAD is expanding its People of Color Media program and dedicating resources to the development of fair, accurate and inclusive representations of LGBT people of African descent."

Cannick comes to GLAAD with a background as a writer, publicist and commu-

nity activist. Aside from her recurring column in Arise magazine-- a publication dedicated to LGBT people of African descent-- Cannick has served as publicist for the Pan African Film and Arts Festival, OUTFEST Film Festival, At the Beach Los Angeles Black Pride, Jewel's Catch One Disco Club (Los Angeles' oldest Black gay-owned and operated dance club), and the National Alliance of Positive Action. Cannick has also worked at KPFK/Pacifica Radio in Los Angeles, serves on the board of directors for Los Angeles Black Pride, and is working on a documentary examining coming out in Black LGBT communities.

GALA DINNER HONORING RECORDING ACADEMY® PRESIDENT NEIL PORTNOW RAISES \$2.3 MILLION FOR CITY OF HOPE

Performances by Burt Bacharach, Ronald Isley, Brian McKnight, Sarah McLachlan, Wallflowers' Jakob Dylan and Rami Jaffe, and Brian Wilson highlighted the October 9 Spirit of Life gala

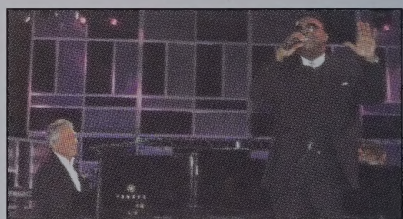
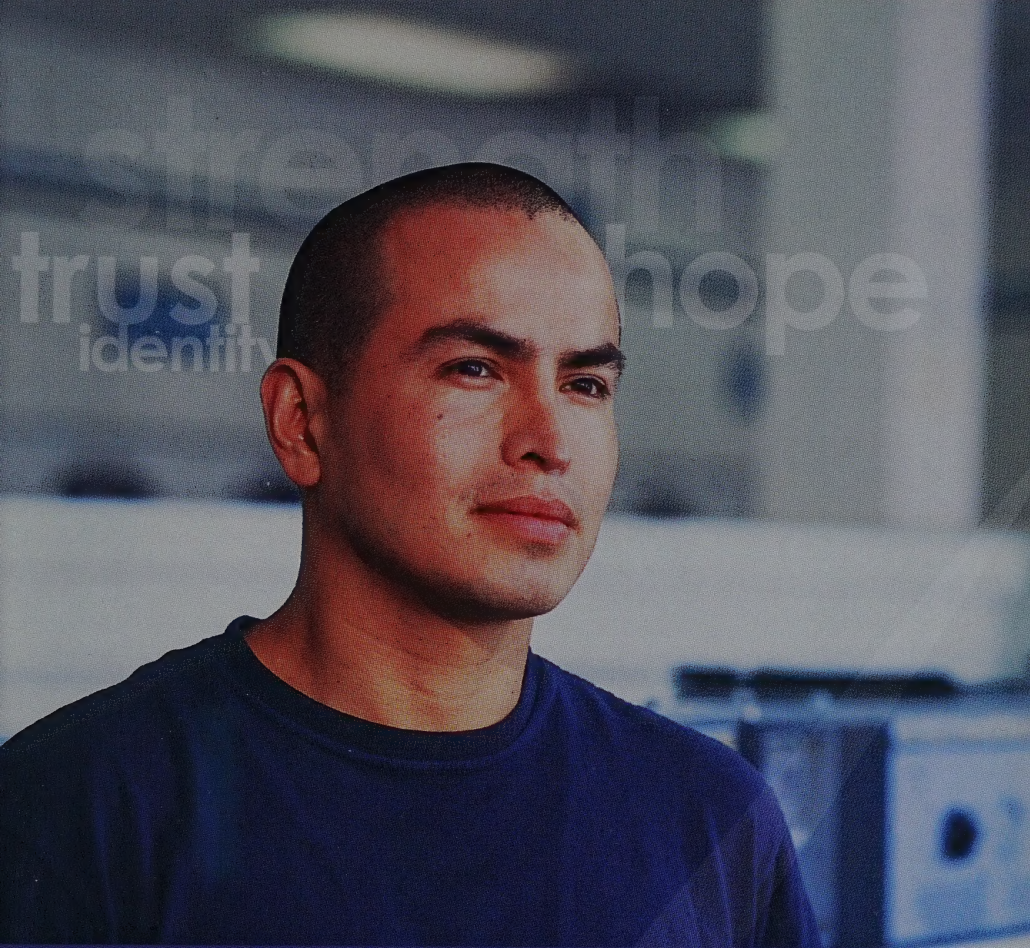


Photo Caption: Burt Bacharach and Ron Isley thrill the crowd with GRAMMY Hits at the 2003 Music & Entertainment Industry Spirit of Life Award Gala benefiting City of Hope.

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People, Places News and Events

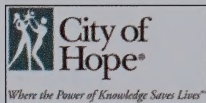
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where the Music & Entertainment Industry for City of Hope honored Recording Academy President Neil



Photo Caption: Recording Academy President Neil Portnow with performers backstage at the 2003 Music & Entertainment Industry Spirit of Life Award Gala benefiting City of Hope. Pictured from left: Brian McKnight, George Lopez, Sarah McLachlan and 2003 Spirit of Life Award recipient Neil Portnow.

Portnow, with its top philanthropy honor, The Spirit of Life Award. Comedian emcee, George Lopez, and more than 1,200 guests thrilled to sweet sounds of

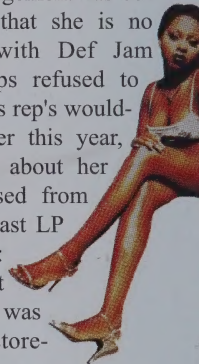


these GRAMMY® Award-winning and nominated performers. The annual invitation-only event, held at the Pacific Design Center, raised \$2.3 million for City of Hope's groundbreaking research and treatment efforts that help people in communities worldwide battling life-threatening diseases. City of Hope is one of the world's leading research and treatment centers for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases

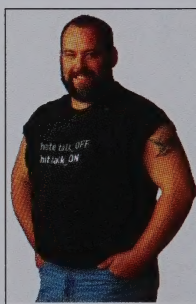
FOXY BROWN: A Rapper Without a Label?

Foxy Brown's management has confirmed the rumor that she is no longer affiliated with Def Jam Records. Label reps refused to comment & Brown's rep's wouldn't elaborate. Earlier this year, Brown was verbal about her desire to be released from Def Jam after her last LP

"Ill Na Na Part 2: The Fever" didn't cut the mustard and was relegated to the storeroom.



SIRIUS RADIO'S OutQ ADDS RENOWNED MUSIC JOURNALIST LARRY FLICK TO ITS LINEUP



Former Billboard Senior Editor Hosts Morning Show

Renowned music journalist Larry Flick has joined SIRIUS Satellite Radio to host OutQ in the Morning with Cheryl Barcenas and Larry Flick on SIR-

IUS OutQ, stream 149. The show, which airs every Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. ET, features a fresh and entertaining perspective on news and pop culture for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Continued from page 7

Many of the singers that she had asked to be on the CD with her were rumored to be gay themselves and the nervous record labels didn't want to risk their incomes and outrageous paychecks for Me'Shelle's 'fetishes.' The rule in the industry is simple, 'if you're gay or bi, we probably know it....JUST NEVER SAY IT!'

The experience left Me'Shelle bitter and angry and rightfully so, she had indeed earned her respect as a great guitar player and musician and she deserved better. Ironically, her next CD was entitled "Bitter" which was probably Me'Shelle's darkest CD to date. Black radio didn't respond very well to the CD but something amazing has been taking place all the while black radio was rejecting her. She was building a dedicated niche audience, one that included many African American lesbians and gay men and rebels from all walks of life had been filling up her club appearances and they were all feeling her pain and understood her vulnerability and there was no question that they were going to support her efforts.

Me'Shelle has been VERY vocal and straightforward in her interviews. In an LA Weekly

interview a couple of years ago, Me'Shelle was expressing her views on the EXTREME differences between the white gay and the black gay communities. This subject has been the staple at MANY dinner table, coffee houses and gym conversations for years among AAs. But, the platforms were often limited to expose the truth behind this misunderstood myth. So she was using her platform to question things that many African American GLBT community members have never had the platform to do. She became a hero to those who didn't have the voice or the opportunity which is why the groundswell of her popularity has grown into a massive support system for people from every avenue of life. Her songs are incredibly Afrocentric and mood inspiring. Me'Shelle isn't the kind of artist that has the music that you easily remember or may even find yourself humming or singing but her presence is awe-inspiring. Several friends and I can't wait to see her in Atlanta this month. We already know the drill; no pictures or the show will stop. Me'Shell can be VERY moody at times but she's a revolutionary, she's bold, she's talented and she's a quiet activist. She deserves to be in a bad mood every now and then.

S U B S C R I B E

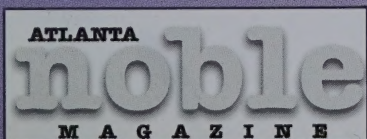
"I don't go out much but I'd still like to know what's going on!"

"I do go out, too damn much, but I'd rather get the magazine at home."

"I don't live in Los Angeles or Atlanta but I want to get Noble."

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Continued from page 10

LATIN GRAMMYS ON CBS

"The Latin Recording Academy is thrilled about the agreement with our excellent partners at CBS," said Latin Recording Academy President Gabriel Abaroa. "The success achieved during the 4th Latin GRAMMY Awards is a powerful foundation for our collective role in supporting Latin music and its makers while bringing our telecast to a diverse audience."

"Broadcasting the Latin GRAMMY Awards reaffirms CBS's commitment to diversity as well as the best in entertainment programming," said CBS Chairman/CEO Leslie Moonves. "This is one of the strongest growing demographics in America right now, and we're thankful to be a part of it."

CYNDI LAUPER RETURNS TO EPIC WITH STANDARDS ALBUM, INCLUDES DUETS WITH STEVIE WONDER

Due out November 18th, album teams Lauper with legendary producer Russ Titelman; Tony Bennett and Stevie Wonder also contribute



In 1984, Cyndi Lauper exploded onto the music scene with the appropriately titled *She's So Unusual*, an album that yielded a handful of hit singles (*Girls Just Want To Have Fun*, *She Bop*, *Money Changes Everything*, *Time After Time*) and thrust her to superstar status. In the years that followed, Cyndi

cranked out a string of unforgettable songs (*Change Of Heart*, *True Colors*, *I Drove All Night*) – some co-written by her, others claimed by her definitive performances of them. Cyndi became a defining figure of the early MTV era, but she also transcended that era as a singer and songwriter: songs from her catalog have been covered by such diverse talents as Miles Davis, Celine Dion, *Everything But The Girl*, Phil Collins, Cassandra Wilson and Willie Nelson.

Now, Cyndi takes the latest step in her artistic evolution by tackling a collection of standards, many of which she has been listening to for her entire life. At Last sees Cyndi putting her unmistakable stamp on classics such as the Righteous Brothers' *Unchained Melody*, the Burt Bacharach/Hal David gem *Walk On By*, the Smokey Robinson classic *You Really Got A Hold On Me*, the title track, popularized by Etta James, and Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs' *Stay* (later covered by The Four Seasons and The Hollies, among others). Cyndi's interpretations not only approach these songs from a fresh angle, they also confirm her place as one of popular music's greatest vocalists of the past three decades...as if there were any doubt. At Last, also teams Cyndi up with Tony Bennett on *Makin' Whoopee*, a song that has been recorded by no less than Louis Armstrong, Rosemary Clooney, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles and Bennett himself. Meanwhile, Stevie Wonder contributes his unmistakable harmonica playing to the R&B

classic *Until You Come Back To Me* (which has been recorded by Stevie himself, and Aretha Franklin, among others).

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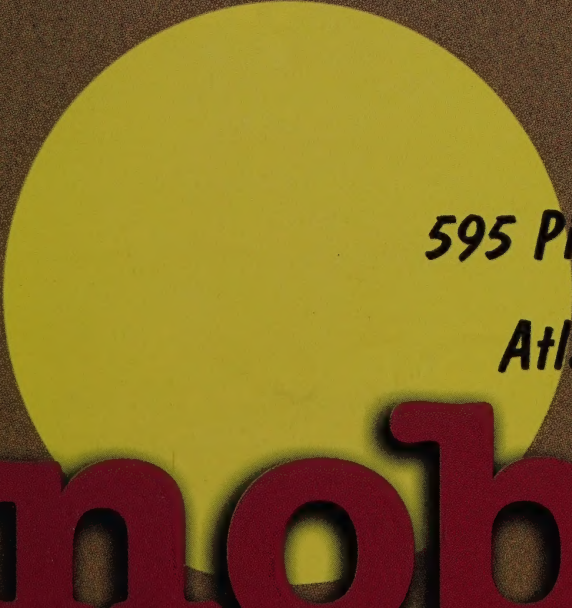
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Silly

By Audlye Gaines

I always think things would be so much easier if only I were out.

Well, EVERYTHING wouldn't be easier, only times like this. And I don't mean out, as in the media's popular definition of a gay man.

I'm just saying, it would be easier if he knew I got down like that. And I wouldn't mind knowing whether he messes around with bruthas too.

Because then all the questions would be answered, and my mind could be at rest. I love him; I know I do. I just yearn to know in what capacity.

We spend damn near all day of every day in each other's company, even more now since he got me hooked up with a job at the restaurant he works at. When we aren't at work or in classes, we're either in my dorm room or at his apartment – playing video games, just talking,

blazing, and listening to music.

We don't just listen to 50, Nas, Ludacris, and Jigga; we be rocking india.arie, Kelis, Mary, and Lauryn Hill. Our conversations are broad and elusive, in the sense that they create two paths that lead to two conclusions. Piecing together all of our conversations along path No. 1, you can reach the conclusion that we are two very comfortable, trusting, and laid back friends – nothing more, nothing less.

Those same conversations exist along path No. 2, but this time, they lead to the conclusion that, while yes we are close friends, we are both trying to drop hints, but are both afraid to take that first step. Right now I'm feeling like india.arie, wondering, "What more can I say?"

I know there are those who may embrace their sexual orientation more vocally and would cynically

say there is no doubt my boy is gay, even if I were to mention that when we're not chillin' he's usually got some female freak trying to fill her study break.

Any drop of sensitivity, or any excessive expression of masculinity would qualify a man as being gay to those who believe 95 percent of the male population is gay.

Believe me, I know there are plenty of men who get down – extraordinarily more in numbers and diversity than the majority of Americans can comprehend. But I also know that there are men out there who are wonderful and cool people who we all wish WERE gay. Men who we fantasize about and imagine how beautiful it would be for us both to call the other, "my Man."

Being in the closet my whole life, I've developed many relationships like this, where there's that lingering question: are we boys? Or are we more? Relationships where I daydream about the day when there are no more questions, and we are simply together. Nobody has to know, as long as we do.

We spend so much time together because we enjoy one another, and damn how sweet it would be if we could satisfy each other's sensual desires.

As time passes, his company becomes increasingly pleasurable and

meaningful, but I begin to wonder if I read the situation incorrectly. Maybe he's just plain chill, and my sexual orientation – let alone my desire for him – has never come close to his consideration.

But still, there's continuing lines he drops, and action he takes – like always inviting me to crash at his crib so we can stay up late watching TV and playing Vice City, then wake up and burn one before we go to class.

All I desire now is resolution, something everyone searches for and few people find. In that, the resolutions we create in our fantasy – imagining, analyzing, and planning for – rarely reflect the actual results. For example: I used to think me and Mike would be together forever. After imagining what it would be like to be his man for more than four years, I got the nerve to put my hand on his shit while we were asleep on the same sofa. Like my dream come true, he helped me get a better grip and we had a wild night. But two days later he was short as hell when we came in contact with each other. It's never been the same since: we went from kicking it like brothers to not knowing each other.

Then there's times my fantasy was even closer to becoming reality, as me and Malik crossed that line and actually talked the next day. In fact, I had read Malik perfectly and he had been waiting on me to make that move for more than a year. It's a trip because I had been idolizing Malik for more than two years and had

Continued from page 17

decided I would attend whichever college he went to before we ever messed around. Thankfully, we got busy a couple of weeks before I had to decide which school I was going to attend. In all the time I spent thinking about how perfect we would be, I just assumed we would supplement our existing bond with intimate privileges. I soon realized I enjoyed Malik more as a homeboy than as a partner. The dynamics are different, and if you're used to playing one role, it's not easy to just switch to a different one.

And then there's times – often in final moments before I thought something was going to happen between us – when my guy would say the most misogynistic, homophobic thought, and I would be rescued because he felt comfortable enough with me to say it so genuinely.

But just as I cannot spend unnecessary energy creating wonderful futures that, frankly, I have no control over, I cannot allow past struggles to taint the specialness of what I now have.

When I am no longer overwhelmed with the bliss of what I imagine can happen, or no longer crippled with anxiety produced by past experiences, all I am left with is what now exists between myself and my boy. And right now, at this moment, I can't ask for anything more.

To know someone I care about cares

about me as well, to enjoy one another's company, to have moments of

“How sad that I have been so preoccupied worrying, hoping and planning for something that existed only in my mind, that I missed to fully appreciate the good times me and my fellas have shared.”

unbearable laughter coupled with episodes of enlightened thinking and profound emotional depth. This right here is resolution.

How sad that I have been so preoccupied worrying, hoping and planning for something that existed only in my mind, that I missed to fully appreciate the good times me and my fellas have shared.

Relationships – in whatever form they come – should not have beginnings and ends, plots and strategies. They are fluid, evolving, and most importantly, easy. Straight or gay, in or out – it's all the same. Only when we fill ourselves with anxiety and attach imaginary fantasies, do relationships become difficult mind games.

Only through conscious appreciation of the present can that anxiety be replaced with peace, and we can find that elusive resolution.

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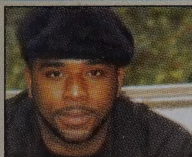
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On the Cover...



Marketing and promotions pro Jason "Jai" Johnson. Johnson recently formed Advertising Inc. (AD INC.,) The company handles the advertising needs of their diverse client base, which includes The Riviera Nightclub, Senwot Nella Productions (The Closet) and Backyard Entertainment among others. Johnson's specialty is in the niche-marketing arena, which includes the GLBT community. For more information, you can check out the website at: www.A-D-Inc.com or you can E-mail Johnson at: jjohnson@A-D-Inc.com. **Cover and photo to the left by K. Ross**

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Random Thoughts

Respecting Other Folk's Time

Customer Service Needs Revisions

by Erick D.

I have found that my greatest amount of stress comes from one particular thing that each of us **MUST** do and it won't



stop until we die. **PAYING BILLS.** Make no mistake, the problem is not coughing up the money and being responsible for what I have used, it's the entire process. What do I mean? Mostly,

that dreaded thing called customer service. There was once a time when voice mail didn't exist and many of you probably sat there while your parents sat on the phone for almost an hour to talk to the phone company rep, for example. Reps were rude and tired of hearing the same stories and these calls would often become heated arguments between the two parties.

Now, we not only have voice mail, we have to talk to robots called Virtual Representatives. What is this world coming to? I can even deal with that but what is the **MOST** frustrating is how you call and have to push a series of buttons on the phone put your account number in then wait 20 minutes to an hour for someone to pick up and then when they do pick up, they ask you the **SAME** questions that you just answered by pushing all the buttons and then they

constantly put you on hold for long periods of time (laugh).

Never ask for a supervisor if you have a dispute... isn't it strange how they are **ALWAYS** out to lunch, on the phone or with another customer when you ask for them? We are all on the losing end in this never-ending battle as a rep will put you on hold when you ask for a supervisor and explain to them how difficult **YOU** are and how **YOU** are the one with the problem. Unfortunately, you are not there to defend yourself. After all of that, all you had was a question about something on your bill that you don't understand and a whole hour has just vanished into thin air.

By the time you get through with it, you might as well have just paid the extra money.

Finally, many companies hire incompetent reps, there is one company in the Atl that is **NOTORIOUS** for that, I won't mention who it is cause I'm sure you guessed it.

Some say to me, get another assistant, but as my mother told me, by the time you get through training them to do what you need for them to do, you may as well do it yourself (laugh). Moral of the story.... **DEAL WITH IT...** I guess.

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Self Love and Happiness

A Few Words with Keith Boykin

Noble is about showing you that you are WORTHY, IMPORTANT, LOVE-ABLE and an INTERGRAL part of this world and this community. This is why it is imperative that we focus on the great achievers who are capable of showing you through their efforts that you certainly can do and be anything that you want to be without having to ask for permission, approval or acceptance.

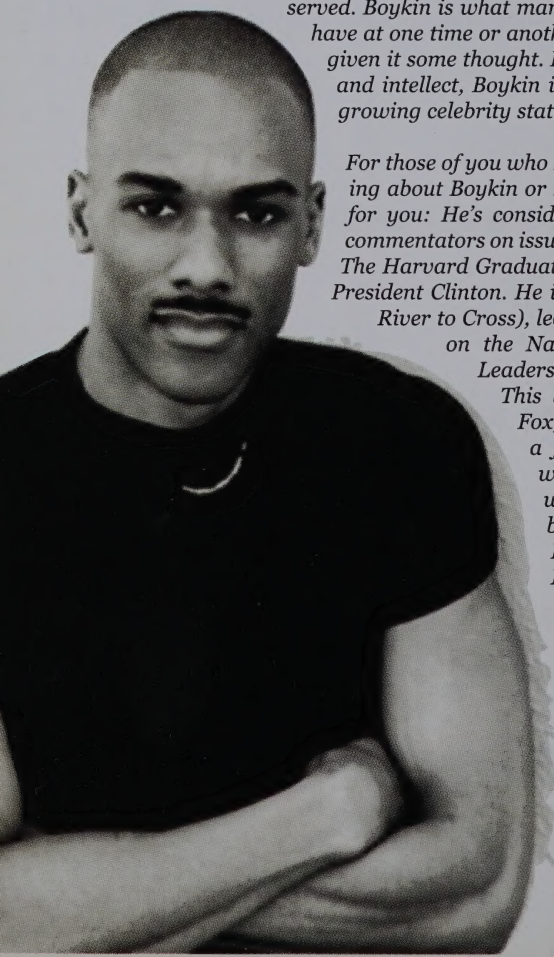
Photos by Duane Abner courtesy of keithboykin.com

If Keith Boykin didn't want a career in the entertainment or the political arena he would have been misplaced and his purpose would not have been served. Boykin is what many brothers from all walks of life have at one time or another aspired to be or at least have given it some thought. Blessed with amazing good looks and intellect, Boykin is certainly well deserving of his growing celebrity status.

For those of you who have not had the fortune of hearing about Boykin or his works here is a bit of history for you: He's considered one of American's leading commentators on issues of race and sexual orientation. The Harvard Graduate was also a special assistant to President Clinton. He is a published author (One More River to Cross), lecturer, columnist and has served on the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum as Executive Director. This brother has appeared on CNN, Fox, National Public Radio and was a frequent guest on BET Tonight with former host Tavis Smiley. His writings are included in MANY books like The Politics of Gay Rights, Dangerous Liaisons, Gay Men and the Millennium and Atonement. The list goes on and on and we were more than happy to talk interview Boykin recently and to find out what he has been up to and what's next on the never-ending agenda.

NOBLE: Tell us about how the whole writing idea came

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events

People, Places News and Events

LEGENDARY BROADCASTER



New Jack City: Radio pioneer and legend Hal Jackson beams after the successful tribute to him at Madison Square Garden. The event celebrated 20 years of Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics on WBS FM

and 65 years in broadcasting.

STONE SOUL SISTERS



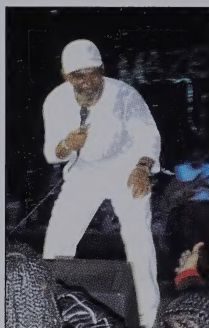
Angie Stone and Me'Lisa Morgan confer backstage at the WBS FM - Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics 20th Anniversary Concert held at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. Angie rocked the crowd with "Wish I Didn't Miss You." Angie also has a role in the hit movie "The Fighting Temptations." Me'Lisa (of Do Me Baby fame) kept things rocking during her tribute to Hal Jackson. Photo Credit:

Margot Jordan

Send all pics of events to pictures
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Before I Let Go:

Frankie Beverly reaches out to an enthu-



siastic fan during Maze' song "Joy And Pain" at Hal Jackson's Sunday Classics 20th Anniversary Concert. Maze was the final group on the star-studded

show at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. It all came to a close around 1:00 AM. Margot Jordan Photo

LA WEEKLY GIVES PAN AFRICAN FILM FEST RAVE REVIEWS



In the 2003 "Best of Edition" of the LA Weekly, PAFF was the subject of an article written by Mr. Scott Foundas, former senior critic for Variety. He stated "... best of all is

the Pan African Film Festival, which will return for a 12th year at the Baldwin Hills' Magic Johnson Theater next February 5 through 16. Under the leadership of founder and executive director Ayuko Babu, the PAFF is less a simple celebration of cinema than a cultural arts fair, during which the adjacent Crenshaw Plaza mall is overtaken by local artists and craftsmen who showcase and sell their work."

Continued from page 6

into play. Were you one of those kids who knew his destiny early on?

Keith Boykin: I've been writing all my life. When I was in high school I was the feature editor of the campus newspaper, the Paw Print (laughs) and when I was in college I was the editor-in-chief of the daily college paper there. I kept a journal from the time I was in high school. When I graduated from college my first job was in politics working for the Dukakis for President campaign. I was working in the press office. So writing has been in my blood. When I was law school I was working on a paper on race and sexual orientation and the law and I thought it would be a great idea for a law review article. I never did that but instead I turned it into my first book One More River to Cross. That came out in 1999.

NOBLE: What made you decide to make the transition from media writer to being a voice for the gay community and eventually coming out?

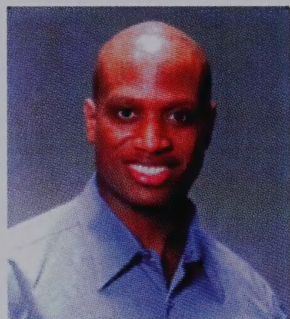
KB: Well, I mean, I don't think there ever was a transition. I've always written about the various issues that concerned me, when I came out in 1991, that was one of the issues that concerned me. I was a part of the coalition on campus before that. So I'd always been connecting those dots and I'd already been writing about them. The articles on my website go back to 1981-82 when I was a guest columnist for the St. Petersburg/Clearwater times. It's always been a part of me to be true to myself.

NOBLE: What was the audience's response when you did One More River to Cross at the Black stations and media outlets?

KB: Well it really depended on the audience. Most of them were overwhelmingly positive and supportive. When it comes to bookstores there is no doubt that you are going to get a crowd of people who are interested in the topic and they are more likely to be receptive. The broadcast media was not quite as receptive but they were not openly hostile either. I've done TV and radio appearances like BET and lots of black radio across the country. The idea was great you know another brother had done something positive for the community. The issue, I think, was that there were those who had a hard time reconciling their Christian beliefs with the idea of homosexuality being acceptable. I got people who would call in and quote the Bible.

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INTERNATIONAL BLACK GAY PRIDE ASSOCIATION

Noble has been informed that the International Black Gay Pride Association will hold meetings in Los Angeles this coming January. The meetings will generate ideas to blend the very successful international events and to create more opportunities for participants and board members. Noble has been invited to attend and we will keep you posted on developments.

NOBLE AT THE GAY AND LESBIAN EXPO

Noble Magazine will have representatives with a booth to greet those in and outside of our community. Stop by and say hello if you can. Here are the details: Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Community Expo o November 9, 2003 - Noon to 5:00 p.m. Sheraton Colony Square - Midtown Atlanta, 188 - 14th Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30361

JOSEPHINE BAKER RETURNS! J'AI DEUX AMOURS...A JOURNEY WITH JOSEPHINE BAKER STAR- RING KIMBERLY "Q" TO DEBUT IN LOS ANGELES



Los Angeles, CA (October 23, 2003) - JOSEPHINE BAKER RETURNS in J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker starring 3 time AUDELCO award winner, Actress, writer and singer Kimberly "Q" (former Ms. Catch One) and directed by Stephen Semien (The Children... of The Night) will debut in Los Angeles

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Performances are scheduled through December 12, 2003 on Wednesday's at 8p.m. Thursday's at 10 p.m. and Friday's at 8 p.m. All seats for all shows are \$20. The theatre will hold special sneak previews on October 30th and 31st at 10 p.m. with an admission price of "2 for 1." For groups of 10 or more, advance tickets and more information, call (323) 293-1230. The 4305 Village Theater is located at 4305 Degnan Boulevard in Leimert Park Village. J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker is presented by Ron Richards Productions in association with ToDaz Woman Productions. J'ai Deux Amours...A Journey With Josephine Baker, takes you through the life and career of Madam Josephine Baker. From her start as a street performer to her astounding feat of taking Paris by storm; her stance on civil rights, to her undercover days as a spy for the French Resistance; her motivation to adopt 12 children to her eviction from her precious home Les Milandes and right back to

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Fortunately I have read the Bible and I would respond to them quoting passages that they didn't know.

NOBLE: Don't you find that arguing and going back and forth on this issue is a waste of time? I mean is that a battle that either side can ever win by arguing?

KB: Well it depends on who you are trying to win. If you are content on arguing with a person who is intent on their beliefs then yes, it could be a waste of time, but if there are people listening who have not made up their minds about it then yes, that can be useful dialogue.

NOBLE: In some of your writing there's a bit of frustration. It's as if you are trying to get a message across and you're not sure if you have the attention of the reader. Who is that person that you are trying to reach? It is the Black gay person?

KB: Give me an idea of what you mean?

NOBLE: Well, for example. Actually it's sort of universal it seems that you are trying to stress the differences between the white and Black straight and gay communities. It's as if you're trying to rally people?

KB: Well, I don't think I'm frustrated about that at all, I mean, I think that Blacks and whites are different inside and outside the gay community. If anybody disagrees with me on that, that's their right but I think they're wrong. I guess that I do feel many frustrations, at times I feel that people don't think as much as I'd like them to....

"I get upset at Black gay men who go to churches where they get verbally beaten up and abused and I cannot understand why they allow themselves to be treated like that."

NOBLE: THAT'S what I get...

KB: At times it's not always outside the community either. I guess I get upset at Black gay men who go to churches where they get verbally beaten up and abused and I cannot understand why they allow themselves to be treated like that. I think that with all the money and the contributions that have been made some sort of change should be implemented and these situations need to be challenged. I'd also like to see more GLBT brothers

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S U B S C R I B E

*"I don't go out much but I'd still like to know what's going on!"
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and sisters coming out. I'm tired of hearing us complain about what they don't see in the larger white gay community. We don't offer the images for others to see. How will people ever know that we exist if we don't let them KNOW that we exist?

NOBLE: I had this discussion with a friend the other day, it appears that it is inherent for Black men to be very discreet and private across the board. Black gay people often have power; strength and ENOURMOUS creativity but we lack resources. The frustration is understandable but I agree, complaining about the white gay community and what THEY are not doing for US is not the answer. In our research to start this publication, we were shocked to find that many other major cities besides Atlanta don't have African American GLBT publications, including Detroit, Washington and Los Angeles. I was also just informed that there is none in New York either. So in essence, how can we know who we are if we don't have the tools to like and love ourselves? I tend to think that self love begins with good resources first like parents, family, churches, media etc. Do you?

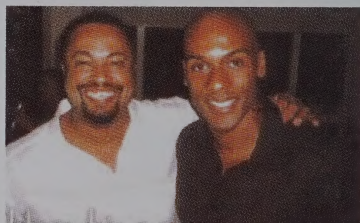
KB: Yes, it is important to have information but I do think that we have some resources already too.

NOBLE: Like?

KB: Well look at Black Gay Pride. That event is elaborate. We have the resources to support Black gay bars all over the country, we have the resources to have elaborate parties all over the country and we have the resources to buy nice homes, cars and clothes but do we have our PRIORITIES straight?

NOBLE: Well, you may have gotten me on that. I do agree. What about role models? MOST of us gay or straight are taught that the more you have (or earn) the better you will be treated and the more you will like yourself. Many of us now know that's false. Most gay people didn't have role models. I don't know about you but I don't remember anybody who was gay in my neighborhood that was admired. There was a very effemi-

nate man who everyone laughed at named Tony in my neighborhood. I remember he looked like Little Richard and I was afraid of him. I didn't understand him (like everyone else) and he was later found dead, someone had beaten him to death. He was only about 25. That's the ONLY memory that I personally have of a gay man growing up or should I say someone who was openly gay. I guess what I'm asking is, how can we love ourselves when many of us have experienced such enormous rejection from so many groups of people?



KB: Well, the great thing about Atlanta is there are many great brothers and sisters there who have the resources to create a sense of community. Unfortunately, the people who have the capitol often lack the conscienceness to create change and the people who have the conscience don't often have the resources. On top of that you have another group who are the activists.

NOBLE: So how do you marry the two or three?

Well, it may not be fair but I put more emphasis on the activist crowd. The great thing about the International Black Gay Pride organization is that they are finding ways to bring African American GLBT's together.

NOBLE: I already know your answer to this because it's the same as mines. Is the "DL" phenomenon new or old?

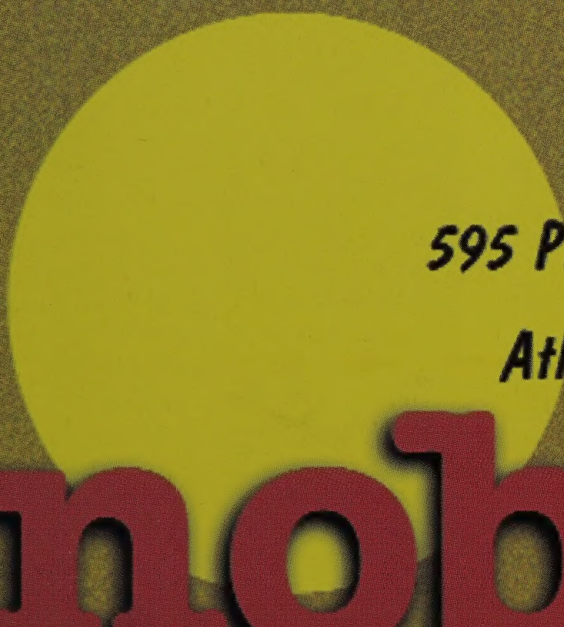
KB: Oh, it's old. As I understand it, it refers to men who have sex with men but don't identify as "gay." That's been going on since the beginning of time. It's media created hype but it's nothing new. I also don't

Continued on page 15

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Hey Noble,

My name is Vic Connor. I was compelled to write after reading a story call "Silly" by Audlye Gaines in your Oct 30 issue.

I am now a 43-yr. old blk male who has gone through what Audlye went through.

I was always experiencing deep emotional bonds w/ other brothas that lasted years, but no sex and no mention of sex was ever involved. At first I found this frustrating but soon learned to appreciate the closeness and love I felt from them without waiting for any particular breakthrough or moment of truth.

I found that most straight brothas don't necessarily want to have sex with you. Yes, they are very aware where you're coming from. Most of them knew me because I was a DJ and they like my music and hanging out with me or they just knew I was gay. I'm very masculine but I don't hide my sexuality and never have.

Guys that find themselves attached to what appears to be a straight guys waste time and thought waiting for the question to be answered, "does he mess around or not?"

Some gay brothas spend too much time trying to have "sex" with everybody that gets close to them instead of looking at people for who they really are. Straight or gay this guy obviously likes/loves your company. Sex with you is a whole different subject and should not be pursued with all relationships where there's a spark of attraction. Let that spark stay there dormant forever if necessary and you will always have a loyal friend who honestly loves you forever.

Continued from page 10

her triumphant return to stardom! Josephine Baker is beautifully reincarnated through this performance by Ms. "Q," which she is so affectionately called by her peers. "Q" was approached to write a piece on Ms. Baker, due to her devotion and admiration for the diva, and has been elated with the overwhelming responses and the endless confessions of how she captured Josephine's person and essence with such style and grace. The dynamic duo Ruby Dee & Ossie Davis profess "The performance and energy were Josephine at her best!"

Coming Soon....

The Noble Magazine Minority Marketing Concepts Seminar.

Marketing for Minorities, as you may know, is a complicated procedure.

In the coming weeks, Noble Magazine will hold a seminar to give Minority entrepreneurs, sales execs and those who want to start a business in the GLBT community, ideas and strategies to help avoid the usual pitfalls. If you have any ideas on what specific areas we should cover please email us at

seminar@noblemagazine.com

understand why there is an effort to demotivate these men more than there is to create a comfortable climate for them to express their sexual orientation. Many Black men have been living with, struggling with and dying from AIDS for two decades. Nobody was really paying attention to it until now. **EVERYBODY** who lives in our community is important.

NOBLE: What are you working on now?

KB: I have a new book coming next year called *Take America Back: Fighting Right Wing Lies with Left Wing Truths*. It's a response to the nasty politics from the Bush administration to Rush Limbaugh, Gays in the Military and Gun Control among many other things. In addition, I'm working developing a television and radio show. I'm doing magazine articles and other things. The radio show is a show that is open and where I interview people from all walks of life. It's not a gay oriented show.

NOBLE: We have found that to be true of many of our readers. They want to know the **WHOLE** world and don't want to experience any more types of isolation. I feel that way too.

KB: Sure, I mean, I'm openly gay but I don't want that to be the centerpiece of my identity because it's not. When I write about things I write about everything under the sun. I write about issues that are important to me like the Iraq war etc. I think it's important as gay people and African Americans to understand that we have a voice. I was very openly gay when I worked in the White House but I was not there as a Black gay man, I was there as a person who worked in the White House. Some of the people in the Black media would have discouraged me from coming out. A lot of people don't come out, understandably, because they think that they will lose some sort of security like jobs, careers etc. To an extent, that's understandable but at some point, if we don't use the power that we do have what's the use. There are plenty of Black people in entertainment, sports and many other fields who are gay and bisexual and the people around them know it but don't say anything. In 1996 I did a book signing at OutWrite and I went to Atlanta for Labor

Day. There were hundreds of brothers and sisters there for my book signing I was overwhelmed at the response for my very first book, I will never forget that.

NOBLE: If you could choose what type of world Black GLBTs would live in what would it be like?

KB

1. We would accept ourselves and love ourselves as who we are.

2. We would come out to our friends and families and let them know who we are

3. We would confront our ministers and preachers who have been beating us up and demand that they respect our rights.

4. We would be actively involved in the political process.

5. We would support institutions that support us.

6. We would create our own social structures that would continue to support and affirm us.

7. We would create economic structures that would build our community's material wealth.

8. We would work on just loving each other and breaking down the barriers.

9. We would break down our barriers.

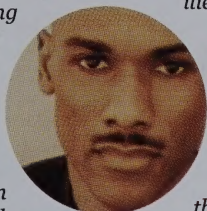
10. We would deal with the sexism in our community.

11. We would deal with our transgender phobia.

12. We would focus on our own sexual hang-ups that lead to risky behavior and diseases.

NOBLE: Wow, you just rolled that out. Thanks Keith....

KB: I've never been asked that question before and that's what came to mind. Thank you too.



Writer's BLOCK



***The Writer's Block** is a section that we allow readers to express themselves in. You can talk about love, life, pain, happiness and frustration. Readers are welcomed to write in their opinions and responses to featured writers. Send your entries to block@noblemagazine.com. Must be 1000 to 3000 words. Opinions in the Writer's Block are not necessarily those of Noble Magazine or its publishers.*

"Queer Eye for Blacks"

by Jasmyne Cannick

2003 has definitely been the "gay" year. From Bravo's "Boy Meets Boy" to "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." We've celebrated triumph with Lawrence v. Texas- Lambda Legal's historic challenge to Texas' discriminatory "homosexual conduct law" and witnessed the first openly gay bishop. Anyway you cut it, almost everyday this year we read, heard or saw LGBT images in the media. The only problem was that almost all of the LGBT images shown in the media were white. Sadly, there were very few LGBT people of color images in the media. Thus helping to further perpetuate the myth that LGBT people of color do not exist.

LGBT persons of African descent are members of two communities and overlooked by both. Issues of racism and classism come into play as white men and women have always been the most visible and empowered members of the LGBT community. Our issues are then further marginalized with the implication that "homosexual issues" are "white" issues and therefore are not important to communities of African descent as a whole. LGBT persons of African descent receive little or no support from either of their communities

and are often times overlooked.

Case in point, the five year anniversary of Matthew Shepard recently passed and to date there have been hundreds of articles in the press related to his death. Shepard's murder was considered a high profile case and received media coverage in both LGBT and mainstream press and during the weeks preceding the anniversary of Shepard's murder, there was a surge in the press regarding his death and bringing attention to hate crimes against LGBT persons.

However, did you know that activist and poet Amiri Baraka's daughter, Shani Baraka and her partner Rayshon Holmes were both found murdered in Baraka's New Jersey home in August? In addition, Emonie Kiera Spaulding and Bella Evangelista Perez, both of whom were transgender men, were murdered in Washington D.C. Sakia Gunn, a fifteen-year-old Black lesbian from New Jersey was murdered on May 11. Last year, in Washington D.C. Black transgender teens, Ukea Davis and Stephanie Thomas were murdered. The press surrounding these deaths can hardly be compared to that in the wake of Shepard and Brandon's deaths. Why is the death of a Black or Latino LGBT person less likely to be covered by the press? When researching the

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Continued from page 17

media coverage of certain high profile LGBT hate crimes, I found one thing was consistent, when there is a community mobilized around the tragedy it tends to receive more media coverage.

Black gays and lesbians are a community within a community within a community. You need to mobilize around our tragedies and our issues. The Black LGBT community should have written the executive producers of "Boy Meets Boy" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" in mass regarding the exclusion of Black LGBT characters. It does not start and stop with mainstream LGBT America either. Black media outlets are just as guilty of exclusion. When was the last time you saw a Black LGBT images in BET or in your local Black newspaper?

It is time for the Black LGBT community to stand up and allow their voices to be heard. This includes writing to the executive producers of the television shows that so blatantly leave out Black LGBT characters and approaching Black media outlets and letting them know the issues within the Black LGBT community. You need to begin to demand fair, accurate and inclusive representation of your community. Until the Black LGBT community can collectively stand as a family with voices united, it will continue to see only white LGBT images and issues discussed in the media.

Jasmyne Cannick is the POC Media Manager for Communities of African Descent for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in Los Angeles, CA. Comments can be sent to Cannick@glaad.org.

Points of Interests

Our Points of Interest guide will soon have some changes. Please forward all of your event information that would interest the African American and Latino LGBT communities ASAP events@noble magazine.com. We encourage both the African American Gay and Lesbian Community to participate.

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836 Juniper St.
Atlanta
404.881.9280
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845 Peachtree
Atlanta
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Techno, House
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BULLDOGS

893 Peachtree St.
Atlanta
404.872.3025
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Atlanta
404.872.4403

CHAPARRAL

2715 Buford Hwy.
Atlanta
404.634.3737

OUTWRITE

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991 Piedmont Ave.
Atlanta
404.607.0082

PHASE ONE

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Stone Mountain
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Hip Hop/R&B/Classic
Soul

TRAXX

306 Luckie Street
Atlanta
404.681.4422
Hip Hop/R&B

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ON THE SCENE

Check out the Community Resource
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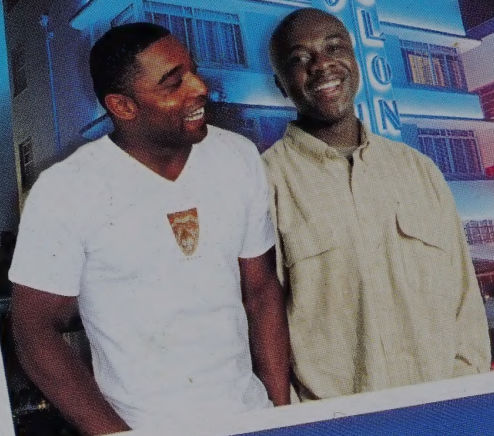
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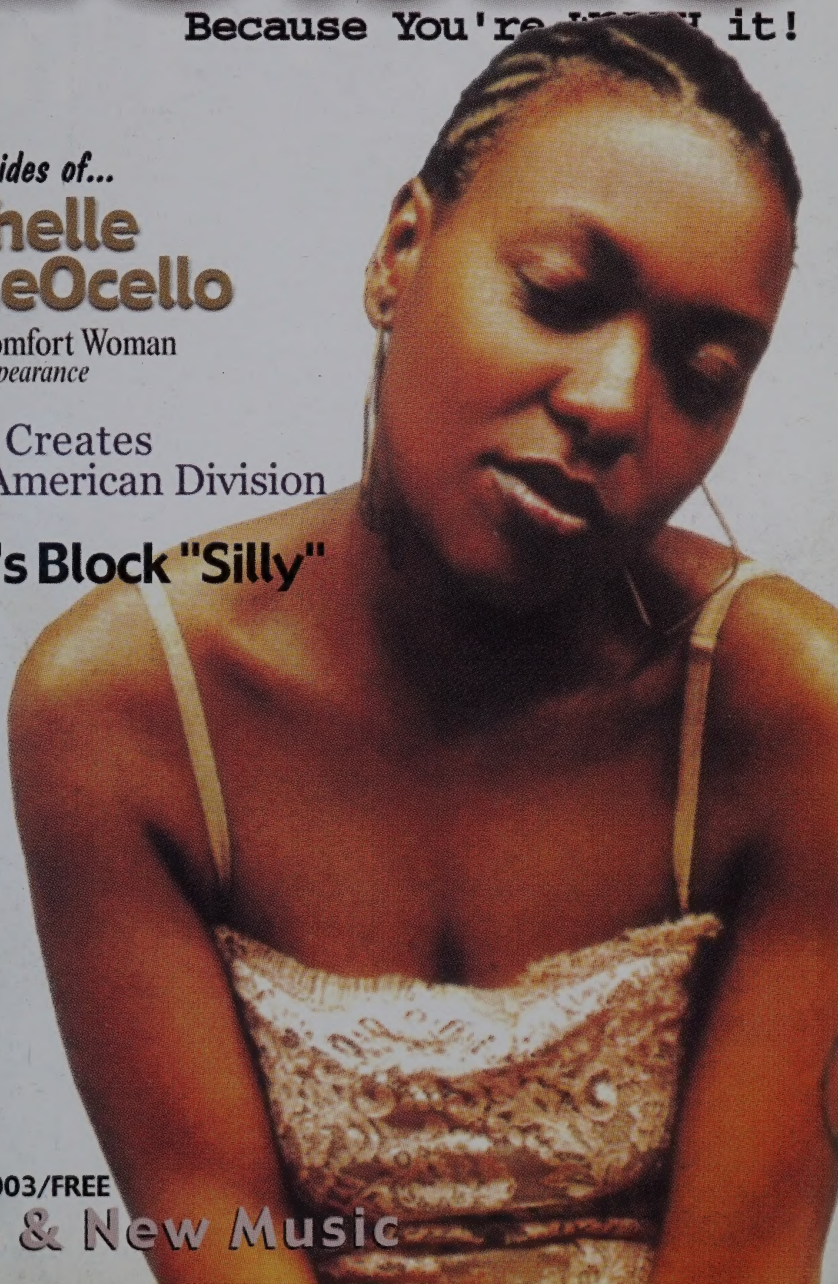
The Many Sides of...

**Me'Shelle
NdegeOcello**

*New CD - Comfort Woman
and Atlanta Appearance*

GLAAD Creates
African American Division

Writer's Block "Silly"



October 30, 2003/FREE

News & New Music

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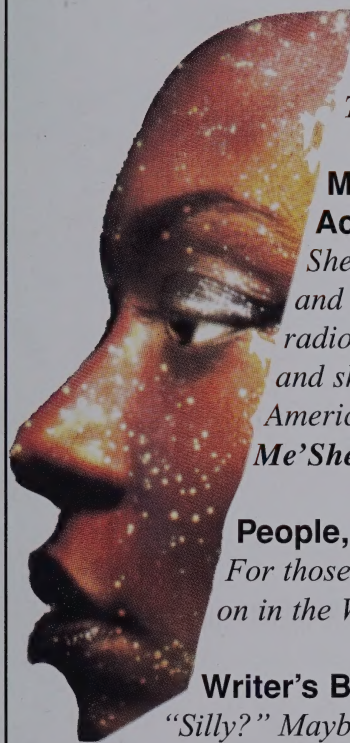
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The first issue of Noble WAS a SMASH!

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She's dealt with drug addiction, rejection and a lack of support from commercial radio but she has an unbelievable following and she's been a powerful voice for African American GLBT issues. Read more about Me'Shelle NdegeOcello.

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For those of us who want a taste of what's going on in the WHOLE world

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"Silly?" Maybe Not. Only a school boy crush

For Advertising Info

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Noble Nubian and Princess

WOW, What a RESPONSE!

We just want to thank all of you for making the inaugural issue of Noble a SUCCESS.

Initially, we were concerned about the Atlanta market because the magazines in LA were gone within two days after we put them out. However, they didn't seem to be moving very fast here for the first three days. One brother told me it was because the Black GLBT community was so accustomed to not having a publication that they were no longer checking for anything. Then the situation turned around. Somebody must have been in a club and spotted the fine brother on the cover (who also informed us that he got LOTS of responses from that cover), picked it up ran down the street shouting and knocking on doors.

Thanks to you for spreading the word and letting people know that there is now a publication for the African American GLBT population. The magazine was picked up and gone in 98% of the locations that we put it in within a week. We have received many e-mails, phone calls and congratulatory letters over the last week and we want to thank you (again) for it. Keep those letters coming. The most frequent phrase we kept hearing by far was "It's ABOUT TIME! And certain club managers telling us "We Need MORE" (laugh).

Enough of that, it's back to work, marketing and finding innovative ways of giving YOU what YOU deserve in a publication. Keep in mind, that our growth is YOUR growth, any event, business, art show, fashion show or retail outlet that African American GLBTs own or are involved in would benefit the most by advertising in Noble. Tell your business associates, clubs, events managers and friends about Noble and we'll find ways to help build their businesses outside of just doing an ad. Keep an issue handy at the house so that you will always have our contact info.

Finally, we are always looking for innovative and beautiful brothers and sisters to put on the cover. If you fit the script or know someone who does, hit us at cover@noblemagazine.com. See you in two weeks!

Editor's Note: Please allow us to clarify that Erick Davis, who writes our editorials, is a freelance entertainment industry writer from our LA offices. He currently has no affiliations with any Atlanta organizations. From this point on he will use "Erick" as a signature.....

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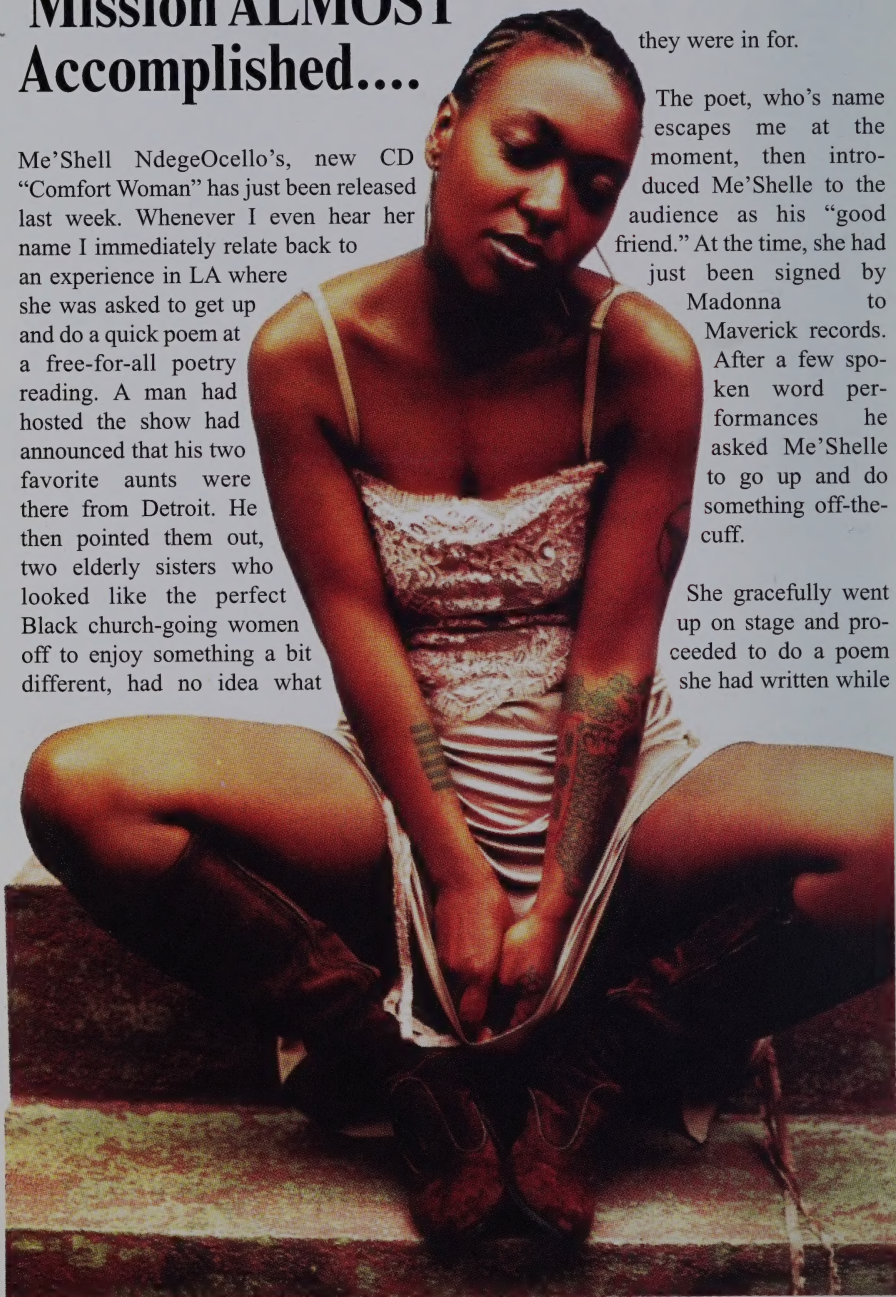
Mission ALMOST Accomplished....

Me'Shell NdegeOcello's, new CD "Comfort Woman" has just been released last week. Whenever I even hear her name I immediately relate back to an experience in LA where she was asked to get up and do a quick poem at a free-for-all poetry reading. A man had hosted the show had announced that his two favorite aunts were there from Detroit. He then pointed them out, two elderly sisters who looked like the perfect Black church-going women off to enjoy something a bit different, had no idea what

they were in for.

The poet, who's name escapes me at the moment, then introduced Me'Shelle to the audience as his "good friend." At the time, she had just been signed by Madonna to Maverick records. After a few spoken word performances he asked Me'Shelle to go up and do something off-the-cuff.

She gracefully went up on stage and proceeded to do a poem she had written while



sitting in the audience about a woman's vagina. The subject alone got nervous snickers from the audience; the remaining fu fu LA audience was stunned. The older women didn't know what to do and just sort of looked at each other through the tops of their reading glasses in a state of disbelief. Me'Shelle then went on to recite her freshly written poem which described everything that she wanted to do with this particular body part.

As someone who has always been left when everyone else was (supposedly) right, I immediately started cracking up. I know that I was the only one in the audience laughing because when I looked up, people were looking at me as if I had lost MY mind. I was



certainly not laughing at the poem, I was laughing at the boldness of this sister and the reaction from a shocked audience who was left with their mouths open and speechless.

The two older women looked like they didn't know what to do, where to turn or how to react. Now I remember the poet's name; it was D Knowledge. He looked as if he was about to defecate on himself as her poem became more and more graphic and shocking. When she started talking about "tasting," one of the older church women began to swoon. 'What was I thinking by inviting her on stage,' I'm sure D Knowledge surmised and when she was finally done. People didn't know whether to clap or leave. There was dead silence. I knew that I was a fan and an industry friend for life (laugh).

Make no mistake, it was CERTAINLY very disrespectful for her to read that poem in front of those two elderly women, but I felt more sorry for the nephew who had flown them out to hear cuts from his (only) album that never made it past the factory.

In the years to come, Me'Shelle would be no stranger to more controversy. When she came out as a bisexual mother of a son several years ago who suffered a drastic drug addiction, Black radio left the club that night. They could probably have dealt with the crack, but the "bisexual" part didn't sit well with them. At the time, it was rumored that heads at Warner Brothers were unhappy with her decision to reveal her sexuality to the public because now she would be very hard to market.

In many instances, an artist would have been dropped from the roster and never heard from again for making a move like this and many have but lucky for Me'Shelle to have the recent tongue-slapping queen of ALL controversy as the owner of the label and as a comrade to back her up. The legendary Madonna believed in Me'Shelle and she would stick with her.

Me'Shelle then released her second CD *Peace Beyond Passion*, which included the controversial single "Leviticus: Faggot" a triumphant and brave video followed that detailed a young brother who was severely rejected by his family and community because he was gay. The video was repeatedly played on the video channels but again, black radio began to reject Me'Shelle even more. When the second single was released "Who is HE and what is HE to you," a previous hit for Bill Withers; black radio shut the gate and threw away the key with Me'Shelle. She had now gone TOO far by not changing the sex of the person to be the "required" male piece that black radio was accustomed to. She had overstepped the boundaries and she was now relegated to the, 'we don't have room for her, sorry!' stack. Just when you thought it was all over for her, she was thrilled to announce that she was going to do a CD full of guest appearances by some of the mid to late 90's hottest acts. Her face was cracked when NONE of them showed up or responded to her request.

Continued on page 11

events

People, Places News and Events

GLAAD ANNOUNCES PEOPLE OF COLOR MEDIA MANAGER

Coverage of cities include: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Washington and many others. Jazmyne Cannick to focus on media advocacy, education reaching LGBT communities of African descent.



Culminating an extensive national search, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has announced the hiring of Jazmyne Cannick as the organization's People of

Color Media Manager.

In this newly created position, Cannick will work with People of Color Media Director Mónica Taher and the other members of the GLAAD team to increase and extend the organization's media advocacy, outreach and visibility among media serving people of color, focusing particularly on outreach to LGBT communities of African descent.

"As an activist and writer in the Black community, I am excited and thrilled to join GLAAD's tradition of excellence in serving the LGBT community," Cannick said. "And I'm excited that GLAAD is expanding its People of Color Media program and dedicating resources to the development of fair, accurate and inclusive representations of LGBT people of African descent."

Cannick comes to GLAAD with a background as a writer, publicist and commu-

nity activist. Aside from her recurring column in Arise magazine-- a publication dedicated to LGBT people of African descent-- Cannick has served as publicist for the Pan African Film and Arts Festival, OUTFEST Film Festival, At the Beach Los Angeles Black Pride, Jewel's Catch One Disco Club (Los Angeles' oldest Black gay-owned and operated dance club), and the National Alliance of Positive Action. Cannick has also worked at KPFK/Pacifica Radio in Los Angeles, serves on the board of directors for Los Angeles Black Pride, and is working on a documentary examining coming out in Black LGBT communities.

GALA DINNER HONORING RECORDING ACADEMY® PRESIDENT NEIL PORTNOW RAISES \$2.3 MILLION FOR CITY OF HOPE

Performances by Burt Bacharach, Ronald Isley, Brian McKnight, Sarah McLachlan, Wallflowers' Jakob Dylan and Rami Jaffe, and Brian Wilson highlighted the October 9 Spirit of Life gala



Photo Caption: Burt Bacharach and Ron Isley thrill the crowd with GRAMMY Hits at the 2003 Music & Entertainment Industry Spirit of Life Award Gala benefiting City of Hope.

Continued on page 10

strength
trust hope
identity

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for today,

but think
for tomorrow.



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People, Places News and Events

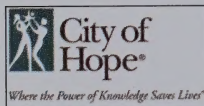
Continued from page 8

where the Music & Entertainment Industry for City of Hope honored Recording Academy President Neil



Photo Caption: Recording Academy President Neil Portnow with performers backstage at the 2003 Music & Entertainment Industry Spirit of Life Award Gala benefiting City of Hope. Pictured from left: Brian McKnight, George Lopez, Sarah McLachlan and 2003 Spirit of Life Award recipient Neil Portnow.

Portnow, with its top philanthropy honor, The Spirit of Life Award. Comedian emcee, George Lopez, and more than 1,200 guests thrilled to sweet sounds of

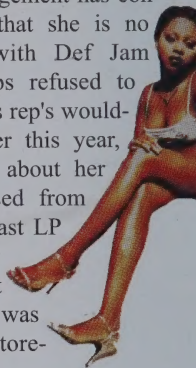


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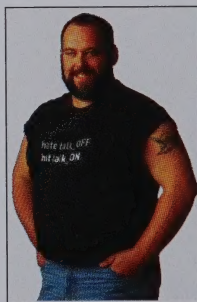
event, held at the Pacific Design Center, raised \$2.3 million for City of Hope's groundbreaking research and treatment efforts that help people in communities worldwide battling life-threatening diseases. City of Hope is one of the world's leading research and treatment centers for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases

FOXY BROWN: A Rapper Without a Label?

Foxy Brown's management has confirmed the rumor that she is no longer affiliated with Def Jam Records. Label reps refused to comment & Brown's rep's wouldn't elaborate. Earlier this year, Brown was verbal about her desire to be released from Def Jam after her last LP "Ill Na Na Part 2: The Fever" didn't cut the mustard and was relegated to the store-room.



SIRIUS RADIO'S OutQ ADDS RENOWNED MUSIC JOURNALIST LARRY FLICK TO ITS LINEUP



Former Billboard Senior Editor Hosts Morning Show

Renowned music journalist Larry Flick has joined SIRIUS Satellite Radio to host OutQ in the Morning with Cheryl Barcenas and Larry Flick on SIR-

IUS OutQ, stream 149. The show, which airs every Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. ET, features a fresh and entertaining perspective on news and pop culture for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Continued from page 7

Many of the singers that she had asked to be on the CD with her were rumored to be gay themselves and the nervous record labels didn't want to risk their incomes and outrageous paychecks for Me'Shelle's 'fetishes.' The rule in the industry is simple, 'if you're gay or bi, we probably know it....JUST NEVER SAY IT!'

The experience left Me'Shelle bitter and angry and rightfully so, she had indeed earned her respect as a great guitar player and musician and she deserved better. Ironically, her next CD was entitled "Bitter" which was probably Me'Shelle's darkest CD to date. Black radio didn't respond very well to the CD but something amazing has been taking place all the while black radio was rejecting her. She was building a dedicated niche audience, one that included many African American lesbians and gay men and rebels from all walks of life had been filling up her club appearances and they were all feeling her pain and understood her vulnerability and there was no question that they were going to support her efforts.

Me'Shelle has been VERY vocal and straightforward in her interviews. In an LA Weekly

interview a couple of years ago, Me'Shelle was expressing her views on the EXTREME differences between the white gay and the black gay communities. This subject has been the staple at MANY dinner table, coffee houses and gym conversations for years among AAs. But, the platforms were often limited to expose the truth behind this misunderstood myth. So she was using her platform to question things that many African American GLBT community members have never had the platform to do. She became a hero to those who didn't have the voice or the opportunity which is why the groundswell of her popularity has grown into a massive support system for people from every avenue of life. Her songs are incredibly Afrocentric and mood inspiring. Me'Shelle isn't the kind of artist that has the music that you easily remember or may even find yourself humming or singing but her presence is awe-inspiring. Several friends and I can't wait to see her in Atlanta this month. We already know the drill; no pictures or the show will stop. Me'Shell can be VERY moody at times but she's a revolutionary, she's bold, she's talented and she's a quiet activist. She deserves to be in a bad mood every now and then.

S U B S C R I B E

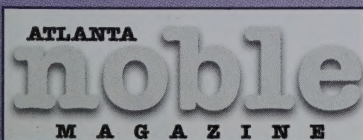
"I don't go out much but I'd still like to know what's going on!"

"I do go out, too damn much, but I'd rather get the magazine at home."

"I don't live in Los Angeles or Atlanta but I want to get Noble."

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LATIN GRAMMYS ON CBS

"The Latin Recording Academy is thrilled about the agreement with our excellent partners at CBS," said Latin Recording Academy President Gabriel Abaroa. "The success achieved during the 4th Latin GRAMMY Awards is a powerful foundation for our collective role in supporting Latin music and its makers while bringing our telecast to a diverse audience."

"Broadcasting the Latin GRAMMY Awards reaffirms CBS's commitment to diversity as well as the best in entertainment programming," said CBS Chairman/CEO Leslie Moonves. "This is one of the strongest growing demographics in America right now, and we're thankful to be a part of it."

CYNDI LAUPER RETURNS TO EPIC WITH STANDARDS ALBUM, INCLUDES DUETS WITH STEVIE WONDER

Due out November 18th, album teams Lauper with legendary producer Russ Titelman; Tony Bennett and Stevie Wonder also contribute



In 1984, Cyndi Lauper exploded onto the music scene with the appropriately titled *She's So Unusual*, an album that yielded a handful of hit singles (*Girls Just Want To Have Fun*, *She Bop*, *Money Changes Everything*, *Time After Time*) and thrust her to superstar status. In the years that followed, Cyndi

cranked out a string of unforgettable songs (*Change Of Heart*, *True Colors*, *I Drove All Night*) – some co-written by her, others claimed by her definitive performances of them. Cyndi became a defining figure of the early MTV era, but she also transcended that era as a singer and songwriter: songs from her catalog have been covered by such diverse talents as Miles Davis, Celine Dion, *Everything But The Girl*, Phil Collins, Cassandra Wilson and Willie Nelson. Now, Cyndi takes the latest step in her artistic evolution by tackling a collection of standards, many of which she has been listening to for her entire life. At Last sees Cyndi putting her unmistakable stamp on classics such as the Righteous Brothers' *Unchained Melody*, the Burt Bacharach/Hal David gem *Walk On By*, the Smokey Robinson classic *You Really Got A Hold On Me*, the title track, popularized by Etta James, and Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs' *Stay* (later covered by The Four Seasons and The Hollies, among others). Cyndi's interpretations not only approach these songs from a fresh angle, they also confirm her place as one of popular music's greatest vocalists of the past three decades...as if there were any doubt. At Last, also teams Cyndi up with Tony Bennett on *Makin' Whoopee*, a song that has been recorded by no less than Louis Armstrong, Rosemary Clooney, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles and Bennett himself. Meanwhile, Stevie Wonder contributes his unmistakable harmonica playing to the R&B classic *Until You Come Back To Me* (which has been recorded by Stevie himself, and Aretha Franklin, among others).

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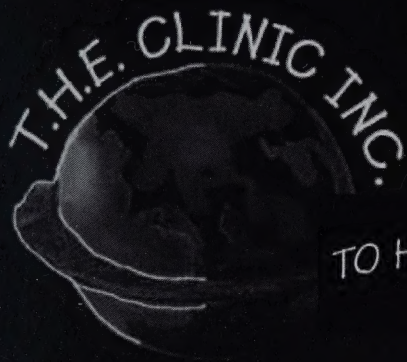
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Silly

By Audlye Gaines

I always think things would be so much easier if only I were out.

Well, EVERYTHING wouldn't be easier, only times like this. And I don't mean out, as in the media's popular definition of a gay man.

I'm just saying, it would be easier if he knew I got down like that. And I wouldn't mind knowing whether he messes around with bruthas too.

Because then all the questions would be answered, and my mind could be at rest. I love him; I know I do. I just yearn to know in what capacity.

We spend damn near all day of every day in each other's company, even more now since he got me hooked up with a job at the restaurant he works at. When we aren't at work or in classes, we're either in my dorm room or at his apartment – playing video games, just talking,

blazing, and listening to music.

We don't just listen to 50, Nas, Ludacris, and Jigga; we be rocking india.arie, Kelis, Mary, and Lauryn Hill. Our conversations are broad and elusive, in the sense that they create two paths that lead to two conclusions. Piecing together all of our conversations along path No. 1, you can reach the conclusion that we are two very comfortable, trusting, and laid back friends – nothing more, nothing less.

Those same conversations exist along path No. 2, but this time, they lead to the conclusion that, while yes we are close friends, we are both trying to drop hints, but are both afraid to take that first step.

Right now I'm feeling like india.arie, wondering, "What more can I say?"

I know there are those who may embrace their sexual orientation more vocally and would cynically

say there is no doubt my boy is gay, even if I were to mention that when we're not chillin he's usually got some female freak trying to fill her study break.

Any drop of sensitivity, or any excessive expression of masculinity would qualify a man as being gay to those who believe 95 percent of the male population is gay.

Believe me, I know there are plenty of men who get down – extraordinarily more in numbers and diversity than the majority of Americans can comprehend. But I also know that there are men out there who are wonderful and cool people who we all wish WERE gay. Men who we fantasize about and imagine how beautiful it would be for us both to call the other, "my Man."

Being in the closet my whole life, I've developed many relationships like this, where there's that lingering question: are we boys? Or are we more? Relationships where I daydream about the day when there are no more questions, and we are simply together. Nobody has to know, as long as we do.

We spend so much time together because we enjoy one another, and damn how sweet it would be if we could satisfy each other's sensual desires.

As time passes, his company becomes increasingly pleasurable and

meaningful, but I begin to wonder if I read the situation incorrectly. Maybe he's just plain chill, and my sexual orientation – let alone my desire for him – has never come close to his consideration.

But still, there's continuing lines he drops, and action he takes – like always inviting me to crash at his crib so we can stay up late watching TV and playing Vice City, then wake up and burn one before we go to class.

All I desire now is resolution, something everyone searches for and few people find. In that, the resolutions we create in our fantasy – imagining, analyzing, and planning for – rarely reflect the actual results. For example: I used to think me and Mike would be together forever. After imagining what it would be like to be his man for more than four years, I got the nerve to put my hand on his shit while we were asleep on the same sofa. Like my dream come true, he helped me get a better grip and we had a wild night. But two days later he was short as hell when we came in contact with each other. It's never been the same since: we went from kicking it like brothers to not knowing each other.

Then there's times my fantasy was even closer to becoming reality, as me and Malik crossed that line and actually talked the next day. In fact, I had read Malik perfectly and he had been waiting on me to make that move for more than a year. It's a trip because I had been idolizing Malik for more than two years and had

Continued from page 17

decided I would attend whichever college he went to before we ever messed around. Thankfully, we got busy a couple of weeks before I had to decide which school I was going to attend. In all the time I spent thinking about how perfect we would be, I just assumed we would supplement our existing bond with intimate privileges. I soon realized I enjoyed Malik more as a homeboy than as a partner. The dynamics are different, and if you're used to playing one role, it's not easy to just switch to a different one.

And then there's times – often in final moments before I thought something was going to happen between us – when my guy would say the most misogynistic, homophobic thought, and I would be rescued because he felt comfortable enough with me to say it so genuinely.

But just as I cannot spend unnecessary energy creating wonderful futures that, frankly, I have no control over, I cannot allow past struggles to taint the specialness of what I now have.

When I am no longer overwhelmed with the bliss of what I imagine can happen, or no longer crippled with anxiety produced by past experiences, all I am left with is what now exists between myself and my boy. And right now, at this moment, I can't ask for anything more.

To know someone I care about cares

about me as well, to enjoy one another's company, to have moments of

"How sad that I have been so preoccupied worrying, hoping and planning for something that existed only in my mind, that I missed to fully appreciate the good times me and my fellas have shared."

unbearable laughter coupled with episodes of enlightened thinking and profound emotional depth. This right here is resolution.

How sad that I have been so preoccupied worrying, hoping and planning for something that existed only in my mind, that I missed to fully appreciate the good times me and my fellas have shared.

Relationships – in whatever form they come – should not have beginnings and ends, plots and strategies. They are fluid, evolving, and most importantly, easy. Straight or gay, in or out – it's all the same. Only when we fill ourselves with anxiety and attach imaginary fantasies, do relationships become difficult mind games.

Only through conscious appreciation of the present can that anxiety be replaced with peace, and we can find that elusive resolution.

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